

# THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
REGISTRATION RESULTS, 1956  
NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
PROGRAMME

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Vol. 6, No. 2

Quarterly

April, 1957

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical.

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# THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY JOURNAL

Quarterly—Vol. 6, No. 2

April, 1957

EDITOR: THE HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY

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*Published by*

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*Formerly*

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LIBRARIANS

Founded 1937

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Contributions and letters for publication and all business communications should be sent to the Honorary General Secretary, Library Association of Australia, c/o Public Library of N.S.W., Macquarie Street, Sydney.

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# The Library Association of Australia

(Formerly The Australian Institute of Librarians)

Founded 1937

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956

Prepared by the General Council for Submission to the 19th Annual Meeting

With a

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1956

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956

## MEETINGS

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting was held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 21st June, 1956, in the Lecture Room of the Public Library of New South Wales, with the Vice-President, Mr. Metcalfe, in the chair and 95 members present. A General Meeting was held in the Lecture Room of the Public Library of New South Wales at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th October, 1956. The General Council met in the Board Room of the Public Library of New South Wales on 21st and 22nd June, 1956.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting and the next meeting of the Council will be held in conjunction with the Ninth Conference of the Association in Adelaide on 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th August, 1957.

## ROYAL CHARTER

The General Council of the Association has been considering for some time the advisability of petitioning Her Majesty the Queen for a Royal Charter for the Association.

It was resolved by a ballot of members taken at the General Meeting on Tuesday, 30th October, 1956, that a Draft Royal Charter be approved, and that the President, the Honorary General Treasurer and the Honorary General Secretary be authorized to present a petition to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation.

Some of the advantages which the General Council believes will accrue from

the grant of a Charter are set out in the following paragraph, which appears in the draft petition for a Charter:

"Your Majesty's petitioners believe that the granting to the Association of a Charter of Incorporation would conduce to the welfare of the Association and to the furtherance of its objects and would tend to the great advantage of library work in Your Majesty's Commonwealth of Australia, by giving it a higher and more efficient form of organisation and ensuring the stability of all its institutions by fostering a spirit of service to the people among its members by encouraging the more willing and efficient performance of duties of librarians by its members by encouraging the carry-out of measures for the further development and improvement of library work in Your Majesty's Commonwealth of Australia and by giving to the Association greater dignity and influence and thereby enabling the Association to attain that position to which its past achievements, its objects, its large and representative membership, and its prospects for the future would seem justly to entitle it."

Provision is made in the draft Charter for members to be admitted as Fellows and Associates of the Association, which would allow members holding the diploma and registration certificate respectively to use, subject to Council's approval, some such



letters as F.L.A.A. or A.L.A.A. after their names, to indicate their professional qualifications and status. In all ways, the Council believes, there is benefit to be gained by the Association, by its individual members, and by librarianship in general in this country, from the grant of a Royal Charter.

#### THE LATE PRESIDENT—SIR JOHN D. MORRIS

The President, Sir John Demetrius Morris, K.C.M.G., M.A., LL.B., died suddenly at his home in Hobart on 3rd July. Sir John became President of the Association in succession to Sir John Latham, G.C.M.G., M.A., LL.M., in January, 1954. He was Vice-President of the Association and representative Councillor for Tasmania in 1952.

Sir John held the high office of Chief Justice of Tasmania, and was also Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Chairman of the State Library Board and of the Adult Education Board, and President of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The Association has benefited greatly not only from the prestige he brought to it, and the wise and efficient direction of the affairs of the Council and Conference, but most of all from his faith in the value of library services and his enthusiasm and conviction in sponsoring the development of them.

His loss was deeply felt by the Council and by all members of the Association who had enjoyed the privilege of knowing him.

#### THE PRESIDENT

Mr. John Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A., was elected President in succession to the late Sir John Morris in October.

#### THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officers elected for 1957 are as follows:

President: John Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A.  
 Past Presidents: M. Ellinor Archer, M.B.E., M.Sc.; J. D. A. Collier, Esq.  
 Vice-President: W. A. Cowan, M.A., A.B.L.S.

Honorary General Treasurer: G. D. Richardson, M.A.

Honorary General Secretary: R. M. McGreal, B.A.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members continues to increase, but, as has been pointed out in previous reports, the Association is still not large enough to be entirely self-supporting.

Membership figures as at 31st December, 1956, were:

Professional Members ..	355
Corporate Members .. ..	366
Members .. .. .	1,923
Total .. .. .	2,644

There has been a total increase of 376 in the number of members during the year.

Membership as at 31st December, 1956, was as follows:

Branch	Professional Members	Corporate Members	Members	Total
A.C.T. ..	24	4	92	120
New South Wales ..	156	165	813	1,134
Queensland ..	24	19	159	202
South Australia ..	29	16	140	185
Tasmania ..	24	15	57	96
Victoria ..	66	71	58c	717
West Australia ..	18	19	46	83
Corresponding ..	14	57	36	107
Total ..	355	366	1,923	2,644

#### THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objects of the Association are:

- (1) To promote, establish, and improve libraries and library services.
- (2) To improve the standard of librarianship and the status of the library profession.
- (3) To promote the association for the foregoing objects of persons, societies, institutions and corporate bodies engaged or interested in libraries and library services.

The General Council has kept under review the work of the Association towards these objects, and, as a most important part of that work, the Association has played a leading part in the establishment and subsequent activity of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services.

#### BRANCHES AND SECTIONS

The general organization of the Association and, particularly, proper co-ordination of effort between Branches and Sections have received the close attention of the General Council. The activity of the New South Wales Central Coast Branch has demonstrated the value of providing in the Constitution for Regional Branches. It has raised problems concerning the relationship between the Regional Branch and the Branch of the State in which the Regional Branch is situated, and concerning the relationship of the Regional Branch to the General Council. The Council resolved that the New South Wales Central Coast Branch appoint a representative who shall have the status and rights of a Representative Councillor, as far as is consistent with the Constitution and By-laws, but without a right to vote. The Council has asked for the closest possible liaison between the New South Wales Branch and the New South Wales Central Coast Branch. The matter will be reviewed by the Council annually. The Council, in 1955, expressed itself as favouring the establishment of more Regional Branches, and asked Branches to make a survey and report in that connection. The reports received from Branches indicated that the requirements for the establishment of a further Regional Branch did not exist in the area of any Branch.

The Council approved a draft constitution submitted by the Australian Capital Territory Branch, and a draft constitution submitted by the University Libraries Section.

In terms of By-law 3.23 as amended in 1955, the Honorary General Treasurer pays £50 to each Branch, Regional Branch, and Section in the first month of the financial year, and a further £10 in each year for every hundred financial members, or part

thereof, of each Branch, Regional Branch or Section, as the case may be, in excess of one hundred, and a further £5 in each year to each Section for each of its Divisions.

#### COMMITTEES

The Committee on Cataloguing, Classification and Bibliography, which is virtually a standing committee acting when appropriate, was reappointed by the Council in June. The Committee on Standards, which was also reappointed, presented a report to the General Council in June. This report was referred to the Board of Examination. The Publications Committee and the Committee on Abbreviations for Australian Libraries were both reappointed.

The Committee on Acquisition Policies in Australian Libraries presented a report to the Council in June. The report was referred to the Survey Committee of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services. The Committee was not reappointed.

The Council appointed a Finance Committee to examine in detail the Association's expenditure, revenue and potential sources of increased revenue, and to report to Council at its next meeting. The Council also appointed a Conference Committee to organize the Conference to be held in Adelaide in August, 1957.

#### PUBLICATIONS

*The Australian Library Journal* has been published for the last three years in Brisbane under the aegis of the Queensland Branch, with Mr. Harrison Bryan, M.A., as honorary editor. The Branch had appointed an editorial advisory committee, and Mr. Curtis Atkinson has given considerable help, particularly in the printing and publishing. Mr. Bryan is going abroad in 1957, and the Queensland Branch has informed the Council that it is unable to carry on the *Journal* in 1957. Pending the appointment by Council of an honorary editor to succeed Mr. Bryan, the April and July, 1957, issues of the *Journal* will be edited by the Honorary General Secretary.

Advertising revenue has been satisfactorily maintained. The *Journal* is the one

medium of communication for all members, and it has again been a means of increasing membership, particularly from abroad.

The Handbook 1957 was published in December, 1956, on the same pattern as last year. Examiners' reports and statistical analyses were again excluded because of their publication in the *Journal*. All examination papers for the years 1953-1956 have, however, been published in the new edition.

The Directory of Special Libraries in Australia, which was prepared by the Special Libraries Section, was "Varitype" set and offset duplicated, and published as a bound volume in an edition of 500 copies, has continued to have a widespread demand at home and abroad. Selected subject definitions and rules from Cutter's Rules for a Dictionary Catalog which were reproduced as an aid to students by photo-offset process and are offered for sale unbound with satisfactory results. The New South Wales Division of the Special Libraries Section is preparing a second edition of the list of periodical holdings in New South Wales special libraries, and most Branches and Sections continue to produce material in their own special fields of interest.

#### EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION

This year the Registration Examination was held in November. This date was fixed by the Board of Examination, after consultation, to avoid inconvenience which might have been caused by the Olympic Games. The Registration Examination in 1957 will be held from 25th November to 6th December.

Results of the Preliminary Examination, together with a statistical summary and examiners' reports, were published in the *Journal* in October, and similar information for the Registration Examination will be published in the *Journal* for April, 1957.

The members of the Board of Examination, appointed for a period of two years from 23rd August, 1955, are:

Mr. John Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A. (Chairman).

Mr. H. L. White, M.A. (Deputy Chairman).

Mr. W. A. Cowan, M.A., A.B.L.S.

Miss Wilma Radford, B.A., B.S.

Miss Jean P. Whyte, B.A.

Miss Nancy G. Booker, B.A., Dip.Ed., A.L.A.

Miss Barbara Johnston, B.Sc.

The Honorary Secretary to the Board of Examination is Miss Margaret M. Miller, B.A.

In accordance with Regulation 3 as amended by the General Council in 1954, candidates for admission to the Preliminary Examination and to the Registration Examination have been required to be financial members of the Association.

#### AUSTRALIAN BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERVICES

The first meeting of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services was held in Canberra on 30th April, 1956. Sir John Morris, Miss M. E. Archer and Mr. G. D. Richardson represented the Association, and the meeting was attended also by the chief librarians of the Commonwealth and State National Libraries, representatives of the Library Board of New South Wales, the Free Library Service Board of Victoria, the C.S.I.R.O., and the Australian Universities Vice-Chancellors' Committee. The President, Sir John Morris, was elected Chairman.

The Council agreed on the setting up of an Australian Bibliographical Centre at the Commonwealth National Library, and that a survey be made of Australian bibliographical resources, activities and needs, and it appointed a Survey Committee consisting of Mr. H. L. White (Convener), Mr. C. A. McCallum and Mr. G. D. Richardson.

The Council regards the formation of the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services as a most important development, and urges members to support it in every possible way.

#### OVERSEAS ORGANIZATIONS

The Association has continued its affiliation with I.F.L.A. and F.I.D. The Council received a report from Mr. N. Lynravn, who represented the Association, by the kind permission of the Librarian of the

Commonwealth National Library, at the International Congress of Library Associations held in Brussels in September, 1955.

The Association received an invitation to join a Federation of Asian Library Associations, and Council deferred a decision until its meeting in August, 1957.

#### STAFF

Following the resignation of Mr. F. S. Millington, the Association's first paid Registrar, in November, 1955, Miss M. Miller was appointed Honorary Registrar pending the appointment of a permanent successor to Mr. Millington. Mrs. Eileen Brown, B.A., Dip.Ed., was appointed Registrar on 20th August, 1956.

The Council wishes to place on record its appreciation of the high standard of service given by Miss Miller as Honorary Registrar.

#### FINANCE

Income from subscriptions was £2,936 compared with £2,045 in 1955 and £1,760 in 1954. This increase was largely due to the requirement that all candidates for admission to the Preliminary Examination be financial members, and to the increase in the subscription for Professional Members receiving salaries of £1,500 a year and over, which applied from 31st December, 1955. For a large part of the year, the office of Registrar was held in an honorary capacity by Miss M. Miller, so that the Association's expenditure on salaries was less than would be normal. The estimated cost of salaries in 1957 is £1,902.

Every effort is being made towards efficient management with maximum

economy; but rising costs have made increased revenue necessary.

In 1956 a total of £1,000 face value of the invested Carnegie grant was realized. With depreciation in the market value of the investment, the grant has been used sparingly, but as the capital is applied to the purposes for which it was intended, the income from interest, and therefore the Association's total income, decreases. This decrease can be offset only by increased revenue from subscriptions, that is by an increase in the number of members. As reported under the heading Committees, the Council has set up a Finance Committee which will report to it at its next meeting.

The Council has under consideration an approach to the Federal and State Governments for financial assistance.

#### STANDARDS, STATUS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Association is not a trade union, but it has a duty in accordance with the second of its objects not only to see that its standards of qualification are maintained, but also to see that they are properly recognized and rewarded. From time to time the General Council has been concerned about salaries and conditions of employment offered in some libraries. The Council hopes that following the examination of this matter by the committee set up for this purpose and by the Board of Examination, the Association will be able to adopt a formal and uniform policy on minimum standards.

JOHN METCALFE,  
President.

R. M. MCGREAL,  
Honorary General Secretary.

# LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st December, 1956  
(Excluding payments and receipts by Branches and Sections)

## GENERAL BANK ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 31st December, 1955		Grants and Contributions to Branches and Sections	
Cash at Bank .. ..	111 15 9	Operating and Administration Expenses—	
Transfer from Carnegie Grant Account .. ..	900 0 0	Salaries .. ..	1,122 10 8
Subscriptions .. ..	2,936 19 10	Honoraria .. ..	250 0 0
Other Income—		Board of Examination Fees and Expenses .. ..	537 10 11
Examination Fees ..	984 17 6	Printing and Postages:	
Journal Advertising ..	892 17 4	Journal .. ..	1,415 16 6
Handbook Advertising	45 0 0	Handbook .. ..	256 13 4
Sales of—		Publications .. ..	83 6 8
Handbook .. ..	242 18 1	Printing and Stationery:	
Directories .. ..	100 8 6	General .. ..	389 15 6
"Cutter" Rules ..	4 9 0	Postages:	
General Introduction to Library Practice .. ..	90 12 2	General .. ..	199 13 4
Journals .. ..	13 13 10	Travelling Expenses	381 11 6
Simple Book Repairs	2 1 0	Telephone .. ..	26 4 6
Examination Papers	1 0 0	Bank Charges .. ..	1 2 9
	2,377 17 5	Insurance .. ..	1 15 8
		Audit Fees .. ..	52 10 0
		Subscription to F.I.D. .. ..	3 0 6
		Expenses in respect of proposed petition for Royal Charter	79 17 5
		Sundry Expenses ..	47 10 5
			4,848 19 8
			5,848 19 8
		Commonwealth Bonds taken over from N.S.W. Branch ..	300 0 0
		Balance, 31st December, 1956	
		Cash at Bank .. ..	177 13 4
	£6,326 13 0		£6,326 13 0

G. D. RICHARDSON,  
Hon. Gen. Treasurer.

## CARNEGIE GRANT BANK ACCOUNT

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 31st December, 1955 .. ..	4 10 6	Bank Charges .. ..	1 0 0
Commonwealth Loan Interest .. ..	296 17 6	Transfer to General Bank Account ..	900 0 0
Sale of Commonwealth Bonds—		Balance, 31st December, 1956	
£1,000 3½%—1964 .. ..	901 11 3	Cash at Bank .. ..	301 19 3
	£1,202 19 3		£1,202 19 3

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Commonwealth Bonds — 3½% — 1964

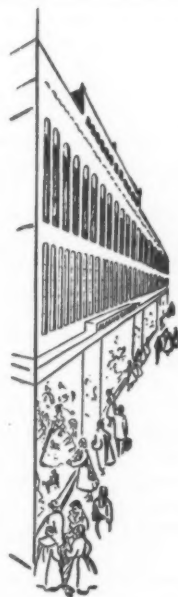
		Face Value	Cost	
31st December, 1955		10,500	10,457	0 6
Less, Sales	(Proceeds of sale £901 11 3)	1,000	995	18 0
Add, Bonds taken over from N.S.W. Branch		9,500	9,461	2 6
		300	298	15 5
31st December, 1956	(Approximate market value £8,709 12 0)	£9,800	£9,759	17 11

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

We have examined the foregoing statements with the books, vouchers and other records of the Association and report that they are in accordance therewith. Bank balances and investments in Commonwealth Bonds have been verified by us.

Sydney, 27th March, 1957.

(Signed) COOPER BROTHERS, WAY & HARDIE,  
Chartered Accountants (Australia).



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## Books for All

*Mr. Bell is The City Librarian, Sydney, and Chairman, Australian Unesco Committee for Libraries. This paper was read originally to the Conference of the New South Wales Branch of the Association held in Sydney on the 19th, 20th and 21st October, 1956.*

First of all, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I point out that what I have to say to you this afternoon is based only on personal experience of having initiated and operated certain library extension activities in a capital city. I have observed other forms of library extension in such diverse parts of the world as Fiji, Southern California, Ontario, Kent, Stockholm, Moscow and Tokyo. I have also read about many other attempts to extend library service, both in Australia and elsewhere in the world. I shall not concern myself with these observations this afternoon. Undoubtedly, travel with a purpose and reading with a purpose *have* had their effects on what has been done in Sydney and also on our plans for the future.

Secondly, I would like to make it clear that by 'library service' I mean the provision of *books* and the information and pleasure which comes from reading books and I don't mean the provision of gramophone records and the information and pleasure which comes from listening to or looking at any other kind of audio-visual material. Now please don't misunderstand me on this point. I neither disparage the effectiveness for good of such non-book material nor do I claim that it is no part of the job of the public librarian to help distribute it to the people. What I do claim and wish to emphasize strongly is the paramount duty of all librarians to encourage the reading of books. I believe in the book—absolutely. There is *no* real substitute for the printed book i.e. leaves of paper—bearing meaningful symbols—which are bound together in a conveniently portable form. It is no part of my subject this afternoon to produce arguments in favour of the reading process as a method of learning. I merely affirm that it is the most effective method yet invented and its vehicle

is the book and therefore I feel that as a public librarian my prime duty is to ensure that every member of the community mentally capable of reading books should be provided with an opportunity to do so.

Having thus disposed of two provisos—one relating to the type of community requiring service and the other to the type of service to be provided, I shall proceed, without delay, to describe and comment upon public library extension in the capital City of Sydney.

To-day, we take it as a matter of course that special library provision should be made for children. It was not always so. In fact, when it was proposed in 1918 that a separate children's library be established as part of the existing Sydney Municipal Library, the Sydney press saw fit to label the proposal as "a bold experiment in public library service". It goes without saying that the experiment was a complete success and I suppose it had quite a lot to do with the direction taken by the Library in its first efforts to extend its services beyond its own walls. The first City Librarian of Sydney, Mr. Charles Bertie, firmly believed that the most useful work a public librarian could perform was to introduce children to the pleasures and benefits of reading. He was not satisfied that he was doing all he could to bring this about in Sydney by merely providing them with a special library all to themselves. In the early thirties, he decided to establish a deposit of several hundred books at each of the supervised Children's Playgrounds throughout the City, and he also decided that each of these Playground Libraries should be staffed by librarians and not by voluntary workers or playground supervisors. Several of these early Playground Libraries are still functioning and doing good work in areas which our Branch Library system has not as yet covered. They

are bringing library service not only to thousands of children of school age who would not otherwise have been introduced to books but also to their parents in the form of Easy Books, or Very Easy Books which they may borrow for use at home with their pre-school children and also to the Playground Staff itself, in the form of books on leadership and recreation and playground activities generally. In some of the Playgrounds, we have even established special 'teen-age book collections for use by the Youth Clubs of the district who meet at the Playground during the evenings. There can be no doubt that this first attempt on the part of the City of Sydney Public Library to extend its services to the children of the City was worthwhile—but a warning must be issued. It was and is a poor substitute for full library service as it should be and as it has since been provided in many parts of our City. One of these days, I hope that there will no longer be any need to provide library service to the children of a district by means of something artificially grafted on to a Playground. Library service to the public is an activity which demands separate and special treatment and cannot properly be given as just another recreational activity.

The City of Sydney Public Library is now operating five large branch libraries and one juvenile branch library. Preparations are well in hand to establish another large branch and suggestions regarding an eighth branch have already been made. I have no plans for a further extension of our Branch System merely because there is no need for any other branch libraries to be established. In January, 1949, at the request of Council, I prepared a plan which covered the library needs of the City and such developments as have occurred since then have been more or less in accordance with that plan. There has been one exception to the recommended procedure and that is the inauguration of a Mobile Library service to cover 'dead' areas between the Branches.

There is no need to elaborate upon the immense benefits to be gained from an extension of Central Library activities in a capital city by means of Branch Libraries.

I would only like to state here briefly the principles which I have followed in recommending the establishment of a Branch Library.

In the first place, I believe a few large, well equipped, well stocked and well staffed branch libraries are to be preferred to several small branches which, just because they are small, cannot possibly hope to give anything like a worthwhile library service to their patrons. Of course, the obvious question is what do I mean by 'large' and the answer is a library equipped to serve a population of at least 25,000 people and likely to issue at least 100,000 books per annum. Such a library should have shelf



The City of Sydney Public Library,  
Mobile Branch No. 2.

space for 20,000 to 25,000 books and a staff of four to six librarians. It should aim to serve every person living within a radius of half-a-mile of the library and its initial stock should be between a half and a third of its maximum capacity. For example the shelf capacity of the Surry Hills Branch is approximately 20,000 and its initial stock was just over 9,000. Other essentials of a successful branch library service are central processing of all books, adequate annual replacement of stock, a central catalogue of all books in the library system, regular weekly inspection and reporting, unceasing local publicity and local selection of stock by Branch Librarians.

These are some of the principles which have been followed in the City of Sydney and let me warn you that they have not

been always easy to follow. Sometimes Aldermen, often out of a mistaken sense of duty to the constituents of their own ward and for other reasons, which are not apparent to librarians, recommend the establishment of branch libraries, in areas which violate the principles of good library management. The only way to deal with such a situation is to marshal all your facts and present them to Council in as open and frank a way as you can. Nine times out of ten Council will follow your advice.

This is not the place to discuss at any great length the matter of Branch Library organization and operation. It is a subject which demands separate treatment. I only mention it this afternoon as an example of the best possible form of library extension which a large city library can provide those citizens who live in the outer zone of the city proper.

The next type of library extension service which I shall describe is, properly speaking, an extension of the service given by each of the Branch Libraries. I refer to the establishment of Deposit Stations at schools and kindergartens within the area served by the Branch Library. We have over thirty such agencies at present operating in the City of Sydney.

In the Newtown area, these library deposit stations either take the place of or supplement existing school libraries. An initial deposit of approximately 200 books is delivered to each school in the district at the beginning of the school year and this deposit is changed three times a year. Each pupil wishing to use books forming part of a Deposit Station makes application in the usual manner for membership of the City of Sydney Public Library and he or she is issued with a set of borrowing tickets. The Principal of the school agrees to be responsible for the care of the books whilst deposited at the school and also assigns a teacher to charge and discharge and keep records of all books borrowed from the Deposit Station for reading at home. We have found that the system is working very well in that many of the children use one of their tickets at school and the other at the Branch Library. In time, they become regular Branch Library borrowers and rely

less and less on the Deposit Station for their reading matter. We also find that by offering library assistance to the schools, we secure the active co-operation of the teachers in introducing children to books. Several schools have a regular system of classroom visits to the Branch Library and there can be no doubt that such visits resulted from our willingness to establish Library Deposits at the various schools.

The Deposit Stations established at the various kindergartens in the City are smaller than those established at the schools and the books contained in these Deposits are mainly for use within the building by the Kindergarten staff or by parents of children attending the kindergarten. The books themselves are of the Very-Easy-Book type especially prepared for use with pre-school children. Their availability at such child-minding centres encourages parents to introduce their children to books at a very early age and thus perhaps arouse in them a lifelong interest in books and reading.

In addition to serving generally the public, both young and old, a municipal library should aim to extend a special kind of service to the Aldermen and staff of the municipality. If library service can be demonstrated to be of value to the Mayor and the Aldermen and the Officers of Council, it will be found that the task of convincing these people of the value of library service to the public is considerably lightened.

In the Lord Mayor's room at the Town Hall a special collection of municipal reference material, mainly consisting of annuals but also comprising any books which, in my opinion, would be of interest or value to the Lord Mayor in carrying out his civic duties is maintained. The collection is known as "The Lord Mayor's Library" and is used extensively by his Private Secretary and also by the Town Clerk.

With regard to the Aldermen, I decided that the most useful form of library extension which could be applied to these gentlemen was a collection of general periodicals, attractively displayed in a special stand in the room set aside for their use at the Town

Hall. This collection is changed almost weekly. I have no idea how much it is used but at least it is a visible, up-to-date example of the kind of library service which we are providing for their constituents.

When the former City Engineer, Mr. Garnsey, returned from a world tour, during which time he visited most of the principal cities of Europe and the United States, he asked me to suggest a means of bringing some order to the mass of printed matter which he had collected during his trip abroad. He also informed me that his department had been subscribing for several years to a number of periodicals in the field of civil engineering, public health and recreation. It also appeared that he had collected a hundred or so books which likewise were scattered throughout his department. As a result of Mr. Garnsey's appeal for help, an officer of the Library was assigned the job of establishing a special library to serve the City Engineer's Department. The job was completed in six months and "The City Engineer's Reference Library" became a model departmental library within the framework of the City's administrative system. One could almost call it an example of internal library extension as opposed to the more usual extension of library service to the outside public.

The next type of library extension to be considered is also a type of library service which is extended to a special group but not a group which has any special subject interests. I refer to our Mobile Library Service to the Infirm. The aged and the infirm comprise a special section of the population which, until recently, has been unable to avail itself of many of those amenities to which the ordinary citizen is entitled, including that of free access to good books.

Early in 1955 I was directed by Council to prepare a report on how the Library could serve the lonely, incapacitated, elderly citizen who was so placed that he could not himself walk to one of our libraries or even obtain the services of a friend to visit the Library for him. Knowing that this problem of how to bring library service to the "shut-in" had already been faced and

solved in the United States and the United Kingdom, I wrote to the Librarian of the Library Association in London for help, checked our own 'Library Journals' and also asked Miss Radford of the Public Library of N.S.W. for assistance in tracing any references in library literature to the subject. I obtained much useful information from all of these sources but I was still without any actual evidence of the potential reading public among the lonely "shut-ins" of this big City. I then made contact with every social agency operating in the City which might be able to let me know how many people we would be likely to be required to serve.

To give you some idea of the nature of these organizations, here are the names of some of them: The Sydney District Nursing Association, The Hammondville Nursing Service, Our Lady's Home (The Brown Sisters), N.S.W. Society for Crippled Children, The Polio Society, The St. Vincent de Paul Society, The N.S.W. Congregational Metropolitan Mission, The Church of England Home Mission Society, The Sydney City Mission, The Pensioners' Amenities Society and the various branches of the Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association, The Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association, and the University Settlement.

As a result of contacting these organizations I was able to assure myself and at the same time inform Council that there were at least 150 lonely, friendless, incapacitated people in Sydney who would welcome an opportunity to indulge in the pleasures of reading. I recommended that the only satisfactory way to serve these people was to acquire a large panel van, fit it up with shelves, fill the shelves with good new interesting books and periodicals and then bring these books right to the bedside of as many of them as possible. My recommendations were accepted and eventually a suitable vehicle was obtained and filled with about 800 new books. In the meantime I had engaged a librarian and inspired her with enthusiasm for this new kind of personalized, door-to-door library service. She visited representatives of all the social service agencies in Sydney and got the actual



names and addresses of potential users of the service. She then called on each of these people and got them to make an application for membership of the Library in the ordinary way, obtained details of their literary likes and dislikes, noted their physical disabilities, found out what was the best time to visit them and where the key to their room was kept and whether there were any savage dogs to look out for: in fact, any information at all about them which would help us to give them a better library service. All of this information is kept on a special file of borrowers' cards and, in case of sickness of the librarian in charge of the service, it is available to the relieving librarian.



Mobile Branch No. 2. Interior View.

In order to explain what we were attempting to do to the organizations from whom we requested help in establishing this service, I prepared a printed folder outlining the privileges and the obligations of membership of the library. This folder was also given to every person on registration as a borrower from the service. I also managed to induce the Australian Broadcasting Commission to mention the service both in the News Review session and in the National News session itself. In addition, I described the service myself over Radio Station 2CH.

I estimated that when the service was operating at full strength, I could count on about six full hours of service every day, during which time about 18 to 20 people

could be served and therefore over the 10 working days in the fortnight 180 to 200 people could be served from the one panel van. We now have over 200 people on our visiting list but we don't serve all of these people individually every fortnight. We just couldn't do it. In two places, for instance, we serve groups of elderly people who assemble at the two centres concerned i.e. the University Settlement at Newtown and the Family Welfare Bureau in Martin Place, at set times during the fortnight. The service is now working at its maximum capacity and I feel sure that before the end of the year, consideration will have to be given to the extension of this somewhat unique kind of library extension service. I have not mentioned the cost of this kind of library service. I don't want to. All I can tell you is that it is the most expensive type of library service that can be given. However good library service can never be given on the cheap, and its true worth can never be measured in money terms. This applies just as much and perhaps more so to our Mobile Library Service to the Infirm.

May I conclude this far too wordy paper by a brief reference to another kind of capital city extension service which is in process of being established in Sydney at the moment.<sup>1</sup> You may perhaps remember that one of the principles followed in providing the City with Branch Libraries was that each branch is intended to serve people living within a radius of half-a-mile of the branch.

I have accepted this as a guiding principle and consequently when I took a map of the City and scribed circles around each of our Branches a mile in diameter, I found that there were about a dozen densely populated localities which were outside the effective range of our Branch Library service e.g. Pyrmont-Ultimo area, Glebe Point area, Camdensville-St. Peters area, Rosebery area, Beaconsfield area, Redfern-Waterloo area and so on. None of these localities has a population which would justify the building and stocking and staffing of a permanent full-time branch library. It is intended to serve people living in these

1. Inaugurated on 14.1.57 and in two months has two thousand borrowers.

marginal areas of the City by means of a large mobile library, the operation of which several people present know much more about than I do. All I can promise you is that it will be equipped and stocked and staffed in conformity with the standards usually associated with other library extension services operated by the Council of the City of Sydney.

As you can see from our library poster, our principal aim as a public library service, is 'BOOKS FOR ALL', by which we don't only mean books for all who like reading

and will come and get them, no matter how inconvenient or unsuitable the centre of distribution may be but we mean books for all the people of the city, both young and old, well and sick, rich and poor, reader and non-reader.

Our policy is to grasp every opportunity to expose the population to the benefits of reading and we can only do so by using every possible avenue for the extension of our library service. To my mind, public library extension and public library service are but two ways of saying the same thing.

## Reading and Research in a Technological Age

This was the theme of a Conference held by the New South Wales Branch of the Library Association of Australia from 19th to 21st October.

The Conference, which was very well attended, was held at the Public Library of New South Wales and at the New South Wales University of Technology at Kensington. It was officially opened in the Mitchell Gallery of the Public Library of New South Wales by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, Sir Kenneth W. Street, B.A., LL.B., Hon. LL.D. Syd., Kt.St.J., on Friday, 19th October. Following the official opening, Mr. John Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A., the President of the Library Association of Australia, gave an address on "The Profession of Librarianship". The opening session was attended by approximately 300 people, who included, as well as librarians, representatives of Parliament, the heads of Government departments and statutory bodies, representatives of the Local Government Association and of various educational institutions, and aldermen and councillors of municipal and shire councils.

In the course of his address, Mr. Metcalfe said that it was the librarian's business and his profession to make books available,

and the inspiration, recreation and information, the facts, philosophies and arts, the education, science and culture, which are in them—to make easily obtainable whatever is wanted which is good in its own way, without hindrance, delay or denial.

In the evening of the same day and also at the Public Library of New South Wales, Professor J. P. Baxter, the Vice-Chancellor of the New South Wales University of Technology, addressed another large gathering on "The Training of Technical and Professional Workers". Professor Baxter said that in every country in the world there was a tremendous shortage of professional workers, technicians and craftsmen, and there was a need for trained people in each of these three groups. The demand for technically trained people existed in all industrialised countries, and perhaps even more in countries that were not hitherto industrialised. He said the tremendous growth of industry had increased the need for the early availability of information. This called for the development of general public and especially technical libraries to help meet the information needs of research workers, industrial managers, and operators.



At the University of Technology, the various divisions of the New South Wales Branch held separate meetings. The Public (Municipal and Shire) Libraries Section discussed, among other things, the development of library extension services following an address by Mr. F. L. S. Bell, M.A., City Librarian of the City of Sydney Public Library; library work with children and young people; and, in association with the Special Libraries Section, the problems of library co-operation in New South Wales. The Archives Section discussed the problem of the collection, conservation and organisation of local records for local historical purposes. The papers read on these subjects and the discussions that followed them, proved stimulating and useful both to librarians and to representatives of councils who were present.

A feature of the Conference was a display of modern and up-to-date library equipment and furniture, with particular emphasis on new means of reproduction by photographic and other methods. The mobile libraries of Randwick and Bankstown Municipal Councils were also on display at the University of Technology.

In the Mitchell and Dixson Galleries of the Public Library of New South Wales there was an exhibition dealing with the development and the services of libraries of all types—reference libraries, public lending libraries, university libraries, and special or technical libraries. At the Public Library there was also a display of new developments in the provision of storage for books and other materials by means of "Compactus" and "Stormor" shelving.

The Conference has been of considerable value to the Association, if only because it has illustrated that a very successful Branch conference can be organised. There might be a good deal to be said for more Branch conferences of this type, and perhaps less frequent general conferences. There were librarians from other States present at the conference, which seems to indicate that a Branch conference will attract visitors from other States if the programme is sufficiently attractive and important.

The Association might well consider arranging for the attendance of some members of the Executive and the General Council at future Branch conferences.

## Realism in Training for Librarianship

By L. MILLER,

*Librarian, Newcastle Public Library*

The recently gazetted regulations regarding the issue of certificates of competency for library assistants and librarians in New South Wales gives further point to the reconsideration of the examination syllabus being carried out by the Board of Examination. The present examination syllabus is most unsatisfactory as it does not recognise adequately the requirements of library authorities as employers or, for that matter, of library staff who desire to fit themselves for promotion progressively as they become eligible for it.

No statement regarding the purposes of the Diploma, Registration or Preliminary

examinations appears in the 1957 Handbook of the Library Association of Australia. However, it might be assumed that the successful completion of the Registration Examination indicates that a person is a fully qualified librarian suitable, technically at least, to take charge of any library in the country. It might also be assumed that the gaining of the Diploma is an indication that a person has carried out higher studies in librarianship. No similar assumption can be made regarding the Preliminary examination unless, of course, one is content with the obvious—that a person has begun to study librarianship and has successfully

completed the mid-term examination of the first year.

If these assumptions are correct there can be no quarrel regarding the purposes of the Diploma and Registration. However, the syllabus of the Registration particularly requires revision. It is submitted that the present Preliminary examination serves no really useful purpose. The standard is too low to represent a real step forward in the career of a young librarian and the content of the syllabus is not sufficiently related to the needs of these young people and their employers.

It appears to be common practice in Australia at the present time to set the Preliminary as the required standard for officers in charge of the smaller libraries and for the lower of the senior appointments in the larger libraries. In the experience of the writer, persons filling this type of appointment have an inadequate training by way of examination to fit them for their duties. It is quite unrealistic to set the Registration as the required standard for such appointments. It is submitted that there is a very urgent need for a course of training to fit young persons for these appointments and that the provision of such a course would not bring about a lowering of the present standard of the Registration examination.

If these opinions are sound then it is necessary to abandon the present Preliminary examination and replace it with an examination more suited to actual requirements.

In considering this new examination, the following should be borne in mind:—

1. Most young people begin duty as librarians at the age of 17 or 18 years.
2. Most employers would be reluctant to grant promotion to a senior position unless several years of experience can be claimed.
3. The great majority of young people entering the profession are females and most of these consider it as a "genteel" occupation prior to marriage. Although they are good material for promotion and would

be useful seniors for their last years in the profession, many show little interest in the Registration. It is much beyond their practical requirements and the financial return they would get for their work before leaving the profession makes the whole proposition just not worthwhile. Most of this group are, however, anxious for whatever promotion is possible during the period in which they will be at work. From their point of view an examination geared to the type of appointment they are likely to fill would be a worthwhile proposition, particularly if it could be undertaken progressively in the period when they must serve as assistants and are gaining their essential practical experience.

4. Persons who desire to become professional librarians would not be affected adversely by concentrating on techniques to about an intermediate standard for their first examination. In fact they are most likely to benefit considerably for their whole course would be more closely related to their progression.

Therefore, during this initial period the examination programme should be closely related to the possibilities of promotion at the end of that time, and an effort should be made to capture and maintain the interest of the student. This can be done best by ensuring that the first examination syllabus covers only those subjects which will be of immediate practical value and that the examination can be completed in yearly stages during the period.

The study of the following subjects in the order given, or some variation of it, and to the standard indicated, would go far towards meeting the above requirement.

*First Year:* (1) Cataloguing and (2) Classification to a standard above that of the present Preliminary and therefore including some of the content of the present Registration syllabus. Persons passing this examination should be competent to catalogue to a standard suitable for the smaller libraries and to

use the catalogues and to file entries in branches of larger libraries where cataloguing is probably centralised.

*Second Year:* (3) Book Selection and Acquisition, (4) Reference Work and Readers Advising. All officers in charge of units are responsible for their own book stock to some extent, if not entirely. Far too many of the products of the present Preliminary are almost completely unaware of the problems and processes of book selection. It would probably be best to rename this paper "Building and Maintaining a Book Stock". The subject should be approached theoretically only so far as is necessary to deal with the various types of books and their values, and the proper functions of libraries. This should be stated clearly in the syllabus and one or two questions on these aspects should be sufficient in each examination paper. The remainder of the syllabus for this paper should cover the actual problems and processes of selection, order work, accessioning, preparation of invoices for payment, treatment of different kinds of material, balancing a book stock, procedures for writing off and so on. Questions in this paper, other than those mentioned above, should cover these aspects and should be of a practical nature, assuming that candidates have performed these tasks and are familiar with at least one method for each.

The syllabus for the paper on Reference Work and Readers Advising should include all that set down in Pt (d) and more. It should include the practical aspects of organising a small reference collection and making it function, the relationship of this collection to other collections, particularly in lending libraries, techniques for dealing with the public, searching, the "follow through" of requests for information, and so on.

Readers Advising, whilst difficult to define, is perhaps best conceived as assistance to readers in lending libraries and as being quite distinct from the

purely "reference" service which is performed to some extent in all libraries. As such it requires a knowledge of authors and types of books and the understanding of a satisfactory technique for providing this personal type of service.

*Third Year:* (5) Administration and (6) either Work with Children (a) Children's Libraries, or (b) School Libraries

or

Work in State Reference and University Libraries

or

Work in Municipal Libraries

or

Work in Special Libraries.

The paramount importance of administration is not reflected in the present syllabus for the Registration and Preliminary examinations. It is submitted that the subject should be studied separately and that it should be obligatory.

At the level of the first examination the syllabus should ensure that successful candidates have an adequate knowledge of such matters as the management of small staffs, the departmental system at the library level (there are a number of "departments", even in a one man library) and also at the level of the library authority, the writing of reports, memos and standing instructions, the preparation and use of a staff manual.

Work with children should cover some of the content of the present Registration syllabus. It should concentrate on such fundamentals as basic books for children, techniques of working with children, special requirements for children's libraries and relations with schools.

The alternative papers, "Work in a Type of Library", would be supplementary to the first five and would require a knowledge of those matters which are peculiar to the several types—e.g.

Finance, top-level control, book acquisition policies and practices, staffing, relations with readers, etc.

It is considered that the provision of an examination along these lines would produce staff who would be satisfactory in the type of appointment under consideration. This is what is most urgently needed at the present time and what is certainly not produced by the present Preliminary examination.

The main criticisms to be made regarding the present Registration examination are:

- (1) The possibility of obtaining a certificate after two years' experience
- (2) The study of administration is not obligatory

There are no doubt many opinions regarding (1). It is considered that practical experience is an essential part of training for librarianship and that a mere two years is far from sufficient to support a claim for Registration as a qualified librarian.

Along with cataloguing and classification, administration should be an obligatory paper and with them should be carried on to the required Registration level. It cannot be over-emphasised that at this level the study of administration should concern itself with the principles of supervision and control, the consideration of purchasing as an aspect of management (not as part of the book acquisition process) and so on. Administration is the only process which vitally affects a library as a whole—if the administration is poor then the library service will be poor. Yet at present the only obligatory subjects are the much over-rated cataloguing and classification.

All other subjects of the first examination (except the last three alternatives) should also be available as papers or parts of papers at the Registration level.

It is recommended that the paper on administration be numbered R4 and that it deal with the principles of administration and their application to libraries in general. As an example of what is lacking in the approach to administration at the present time, attention is drawn to the mention in papers R4 and 5 of "technical" details such

as circulation methods, and the omission of specific mention of such matters as the preparation of financial estimates and the control of expenditure.

Papers R4 and 5 would then become R5 and 6 with the omission of the words administration and organisation. Subsequent papers would be renumbered accordingly.

It is considered that some of the content of the present Preliminary syllabus should be included at the Registration level only. This applies particularly to much of what is at present listed in P.1 (a) and (c).

It is submitted that administration, cataloguing and classification should be taken at the Registration level in the fourth year and two choice papers (or a thesis) in the fifth.

This system would rectify the very serious gap between the present Preliminary and Registration examinations and would improve the present standard of the latter.

## BOOK REVIEW

HOLMSTROM, J. EDWIN: *Records and research in engineering and industrial science*. Third ed. rewritten and enlarged. London, Chapman & Hall, 1956. 60/-.

A third edition proves the importance of Holmstrom's *Records and research*. It has grown larger again by over a hundred pages, but now has a greater proportion of what might be expected from its title and a smaller one of librarianship, of classification and cataloguing, if not of bibliographical research.

It should be read carefully by all serious students for L.A.A. Registration papers 5 and 7, as well as by all engaged in bibliographical research for industry, whether in special or general libraries. And it still includes the best short and impartial account of UDC, and of Kaiser's systematic indexing, with additions covering automatic selection, Mooer's Zatocoding, Batten's form of coordinate indexing, and Taube's Uniterm version of it.

Its own bibliography is good and up-to-date, and its own index fairly good, but not perfect, for example, it includes Zatocoding 433, but not Uniterm 434.

# The 9th Annual Conference

The Ninth Annual Conference will be held in Adelaide on Tuesday, 27th, Wednesday, 28th, and Friday, 29th August.

The Conference will be held at the University of Adelaide.

The General Council of the Association will meet on Monday, 26th August, and on Friday, 30th August.

The Association has been informed that two other Australia-wide conferences will be held in Adelaide during the period of the Association's Conference. This will probably have the effect of making hotel accommodation a little more difficult. Intending delegates to the Conference are, therefore, asked to make their hotel bookings early. The South Australian Branch is sending a list of hotels and boarding houses with the tariffs to all other Branches, and intending delegates should consult the Branch Secretary for this information. The following is the programme for the Conference.

## PROGRAMME

### MONDAY

- 8 p.m. . . . . Meeting of the General Council.  
Reception and conversazione given by the South Australian Branch to which all delegates are invited.

### TUESDAY

- 9.15-10.45 a.m. . . . Registration of delegates.  
10.45-10.50 a.m. . . . Notices.  
11.0-11.5 a.m. . . . Introduction of the Hon. Baden Pattinson by the President.  
11.5-11.20 a.m. . . . Official opening by the Hon. Baden Pattinson, Minister of Education, South Australia.  
11.20-12.30 p.m. . . . Presidential address.  
2.0-3.30 p.m. . . . *Archives Section:*  
"Business Archives", Mr. D. S. MacMillan, M.A., Archivist, University of Sydney.  
*Section for Library Work with Children and Young People:*  
"Standards for subject cataloguing and classification of children's books", Miss N. Booker, B.A., Dip.Ed., A.L.A., Librarian, Sydney Teachers' College, and Mrs. M. Cotton, Children's Librarian, Randwick Municipal Library.  
*University Libraries Section:*  
"The University librarian and his client", Mr. D. H. Borchardt, M.A., A.L.A., Librarian, University of Tasmania.

## TEA BREAK

- 3.45-5.15 p.m. . . . *Archives Section:*  
"Archival concepts and commandments", Mr. G. L. Fischer, B.A., Assistant Archivist, Public Library of S.A.  
*Section for Library Work with Children and Young People:*  
"School and children's libraries—central services", Miss E. Hill, B.A., Dip.Ed., Officer-in-Charge, School Library Service, N.S.W., and Miss C. Paltridge, A.L.A., Librarian, Lady Clark Memorial Children's Library, Hobart.  
*University Libraries Section:*  
"The undergraduate and the services he needs", Miss B. Wines, B.A., Fisher Library, University of Sydney.  
8.0 p.m. . . . . *Public Session:*  
Address by Professor W. G. K. Duncan. Chairman: The President.

## WEDNESDAY

- 9.15-10.45 a.m. . . . . *Public Libraries Section:*  
"The role of the public library in community development".  
*Ad hoc Section:*  
Education for librarianship: a seminar.  
*University Libraries Section:*  
"The recruitment, training and qualifications for university librarianship", Miss V. Turnbull, B.A., Melbourne University Library.

### TEA BREAK

- 11.0-12.30 p.m. . . . . *Public Libraries Section:*  
"Technical services in the public library", Mr. L. Miller, Librarian, Newcastle Public Library.  
*Ad hoc Section:*  
Education for librarianship (*continued*).  
*University Libraries Section:*  
Miss B. Turnbull (*continued*).  
2.0-3.30 p.m. . . . . *Special Libraries Section:*  
"Theory of classification", Mr. J. W. Metcalfe, B.A., F.L.A.  
"The Bliss classification", Mr. D. H. Borchardt, M.A., A.L.A., Librarian, University of Tasmania.

### TEA BREAK

- 3.45-5.15 p.m. . . . . "Barnard's medical classification", Mr. D. C. Barnard.  
"Oxford forestry classification", Mrs. S. Meade, B.A., Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra.  
Public administration materials classification", Mr. P. Russell, Department of Mines, South Australia.  
"Library of Congress classification applied to special libraries", Mr. A. J. Brown, A.L.A., Librarian, Scotch College, Melbourne.  
*Section for Library Work with Children and Young People:*  
"The teenage reader", Mrs. E. M. Roe, Teacher-Librarian, Tudor House, Moss Vale.  
8.0 p.m. . . . . *Section for Library Work with Children and Young People:*  
"The reading difficulties of children", Dr. Meadows, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.Ps.S., Psychology Department, University of Adelaide.  
*Ad hoc Section: Cataloguing:*  
"Electrophotography and catalogue card reproduction", Mr. J. A. Wells, Research Officer, Public Library of South Australia.  
"The cost of electrophotographic catalogue cards in the public library of South Australia", Mr. R. K. Olding, Chief Cataloguer, Public Library of South Australia.

## THURSDAY

- 9.15-10.45 a.m. . . . . *Archives Section:*  
"The archivist in the modern world", Mr. Ian MacLean, B.A., Chief Archives Officer, Commonwealth National Library.  
*Special Libraries Section:*  
"Comparison of D.C., U.D.C., and Colon classifications", Miss B. Brown, B.Sc., Division of Industrial Chemistry, C.S.I.R.O., Melbourne.  
*Public Libraries Section:*  
"Further education and the public library", Mr. F. A. Sharr, B.A., F.L.A., Executive Officer and Secretary of Library Board of Western Australia.



#### TEA BREAK

11.0-12.30 p.m. . . . . *Archives Section:*

"The New England Record Council", Mr. F. H. Rogers, M.A.,  
F.L.A., Librarian, University of New England.

*Special Libraries Section:*

General discussion on all papers and on the use of classification in  
special libraries.

*Public Libraries Section:*

New techniques in library development: and exhibition and  
exposition.

2.0-5.15 p.m. . . . . Library Association of Australia's Annual General Meeting.

Plenary session, reports of sections to General Conference.  
Resolutions.

3.15 p.m. . . . . TEA BREAK.

#### CLOSE OF CONFERENCE.

#### FRIDAY

General Council Meeting.

NOTE: Annual Meetings of Sections have not been programmed. It is suggested that each Section hold its Annual Meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, 27th August, and if time is not sufficient adjourn the meeting to another time to be fixed by the Section.

## South Australian Library Problems A Symposium by the South Australian Branch

*[This symposium has been prepared by the South Australian Branch to provide a background of information about libraries in that State for members who will be attending the General Conference of the Association which will be held in Adelaide on the 27th, 28th and 29th August.]*

#### LOCAL LIBRARIES

At the present time, and for some time yet to come, it seems, the library scene in South Australia is dominated by one fact—the absence of municipal libraries. It occupies the attention of all kinds of librarians. It is not unusual to find a special librarian in a country town agitating in the community for better public library provision: we take it for granted that university librarians have been represented on such Free Library Movements as there have been. People primarily interested in school libraries also make themselves heard in discussions about the new Library Act, and, of course, people in the State Public Library

have done what seems to be called for within the narrow limits of their equivocal position.

In 1955 the South Australian Parliament passed an Act "to empower the Treasurer to subsidise the cost of certain libraries". So far no Municipal Council has taken advantage of the provisions of the Act. This is hardly surprising, as South Australia has existed for so long without even mediocre local library service. People and councillors, for the most part, seem to have been quite unaware of the very considerable developments in the other States. The South Australian Branch of the Library Association of Australia has endeavoured to remedy



this state of affairs in a limited way by exhibitions and posters displayed on appropriate occasions, and it has ready for the press a pamphlet outlining the aims and objects of free local public libraries. In other ways the Branch has run up against practical politics and expediencies which have hampered a more vigorous policy. The Act itself is not exactly encouraging. Given goodwill, far-sightedness, and a real belief in the potentialities for good in public library service, it will work admirably. However, the Act makes no stipulation that the libraries subsidised under it will be free, nor does it guarantee that they will be subsidised on any pre-determined basis. It is true that the Libraries Board may recommend conditions and restrictions in the payment of subsidies, but the real power of implementing the Act rests with the Treasurer.

Indeed the absence of any directive, either imperative or permissive, to the Libraries Board to take the initiative and actively campaign to fulfil the provisions of the Act is perhaps its most serious shortcoming. The initiative as it stands, rests with the councils, and these, notoriously,

are slow to undertake new activities without public clamour. Without publicity, propaganda and demonstration the public will demand no more than it has demanded for decades.

In many respects the general terms written into the Act can be useful, but many people are of the opinion that their very vagueness can lead to unfavourable interpretations as easily as otherwise. Notwithstanding all this, there have been one or two reports in the last few months indicating that some Councils are preparing to take action.

Just one Library working well will do more to encourage the Library Movement in South Australia than anything else. It is to be hoped that the clause of the Act enabling the Libraries Board to establish and carry on a service for lending books to libraries subsidised under this Act, will be interpreted generously to overcome the initial difficulties of setting up libraries in so barren a landscape as South Australia. Perhaps by the time, and under the influence, of the Library Association's Conference in August, some real progress will have been made.

## The Public Library of South Australia

By H. C. BRIDSON, B.A.

*Principal Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia*

### HISTORY

The Colony of South Australia was established in London in August 1834, and in the same month in that city a group of gentlemen founded "The South Australian Literary and Scientific Association" and formed a collection of books for the purpose of "the cultivation and diffusion of useful knowledge throughout the colony". From this small beginning has grown the Public Library of South Australia with a staff of approximately 140 people.

The first collection of 117 books was sent to the Colony in the "Tam O' Shanter" which sailed from Plymouth on the 20th

of July 1836, three days before the departure of H.M.S. "Buffalo" with Governor John Hindmarsh aboard. Shortly after arriving in the colony the books were housed in a wooden shanty on North Terrace near the present site of the Adelaide Railway Station.

The early history of the Library was one of constantly recurring difficulties, not least of which was finance and the Library changed both its name and its domicile a number of times. In 1856 an Act was passed by the South Australian Legislature for the establishment of a National Institute; this Act placed the Library on a com-

paratively sound footing under the title "The South Australian Institute".

The next significant advance came in 1884 when the collection was divided into two; the books of an ephemeral nature were taken over by a body which took the name of the Adelaide Circulating Library and which still maintains its identity as a subscription library controlled by a Committee, while the reference collection became the Public Library of South Australia under the control of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery.

Finally, in 1939, a new Act split up this association and a Libraries Department was set up as a separate government department responsible to the Minister of Education; control, excepting over staff, was vested in the Libraries Board.

#### REFERENCE LIBRARY

The central core of the institution is the Reference Library, covering all fields of knowledge. The latest statistics give the number of volumes in the reference collection as a little under 200,000. A copy of every book, pamphlet etc. published in the State must be deposited in the Library under the Libraries and Institutes Act.

With the establishment of the Adelaide Lending Service in 1946 practically the whole of the reference library collection was made available for loan.

A feature of the Reference Library is its special Periodicals Room, where over 3000 periodicals and serials are filed. There is also a separate Newspaper Reading Room which, in addition to filing all South Australian papers, also receives the chief papers from other States and many of the leading English and foreign newspapers.

#### CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In 1915 the Board set up a special collection for children. Through lack of space the Children's Library is housed in an old building at the rear of the Museum, but despite its unfortunate situation it is now lending nearly 200,000 books a year to some 15,000 borrowers from a bookstock of approximately 14,000 specially selected volumes.

Since last December, the Library has conducted each Saturday morning a free educational film show; the average attendance is 300 children and Saturday mornings have now become an exceedingly busy time for this department.

#### COUNTRY LENDING SERVICE

This Service began in 1938, modelled on the Country Reference Section of the Public Library of New South Wales. In addition to the adult section, it has a special service for country children and a box service for schools. Last year nearly 160,000 books were lent; of this total 93,000 were borrowed by children.

#### ADELAIDE LENDING SERVICE

The government in 1946 made money available for a special department to lend books to people within the metropolitan area. There are now nearly 40,000 volumes in this collection which covers all fields of knowledge including books in foreign languages for New Australians but not popular fiction. In 1955-56 216,000 loans were recorded to 31,000 borrowers. In addition, 38,000 books were borrowed from the Reference Library. The Department has a "Play Collection" which lends sets of plays to groups wishing to read or act them. This collection is used extensively by country readers.

#### RESEARCH SERVICE

Early in 1942 the Government made funds available for setting up a Research Service. Not only does this service make bibliographical searches in the literature held by the Public Library but obtains information and references from libraries and institutions throughout the world in satisfying readers' requests. The majority of the inquiries are of a technical or scientific nature.

The Service has a Photographic Section which will photograph material in the Library or make enlargements of microfilm received from other libraries for the cost of the materials involved. The Photographic Section also undertakes the preparation of Kodachrome transparencies from

coloured illustrations in the Library: this service is proving of particular interest to lecturers. The Library has placed orders for photographic equipment to the value of over £6000 and delivery is expected within the next few months. The equipment includes a Recordak Microfile Camera, Model C1, a Depue Automatic Microfilm Printer and a P.S.C. Trifilm Processor. One of the purposes for which this equipment will be used is the microfilming of early South Australian newspapers.

The Research Service is also responsible for organizing fortnightly public lectures and educational film evenings throughout the autumn, winter and spring months. These lectures, held in the Public Library Lecture Room, attract capacity houses.

#### ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

This department of the Public Library of South Australia was established in 1920 as a central repository for both State archives and private historical records. The department is housed in an isolated stone building (a former Government store, erected in 1867) situated between the Public Library and the University. Although adapted as far as practicable for archival purposes in 1919-20, and subsequently equipped with a steel mezzanine floor and much additional shelving, its storage capacity has for some years fallen short of requirements. Owing to this disability, the transfer of series of archives no longer required by various Government departments, as well as additions to important series already held at the Archives, has been delayed.

Upon its establishment, the department was staffed by an archivist and an assistant, but owing to financial stringency its administration was performed (in conjunction with Library duties) by only one officer during the years 1931-1936. In late 1936 an assistant was again provided, and a clerk-typiste was appointed in 1938. Except for work performed by part-time and honorary workers, staff strength remains unaltered.

During the first five years of the department's existence the average number of annual enquiries was in the vicinity of 400,

involving the production of about 10,000 documents yearly. Over the past five years, however, enquiries have averaged about 3,000 per annum with an annual production of approximately 40,000 documents.

The Archives Department of the Public Library of South Australia was the first archival institution in the Commonwealth to secure (in 1925) legislation making it compulsory for Government officers to give to the Libraries Board one month's notice of their intention to destroy official records. During that period the Board's officers are empowered to inspect such material and take possession of whatever they think fit. The Act also provides for the recovery of any official records in unauthorized hands.

In acquiring records, a wide interpretation is placed upon the definition of archives so as to include not only official material, but records of companies, societies, institutions, religious denominations, and the journals and papers of parliamentarians, explorers, and all other public men. The policy of obtaining unofficial records by gift has been very successful. Among the important groups of documents received in this way are the papers of George Fife Angas, Sir Charles Todd, Sir James Penn Boucaut, Sir John Morphett and Sir Henry Ayers. In the field of business, the records of the proprietors of the Wallaroo and Moonta Mines, the South Australian Mining Association, and the South Australian Company constitute some of the rich sources available for the study of the earlier economic history of the State.

Full use of the department by all sections of the community is encouraged, and while the use of confidential material is safeguarded, formalities governing the use of the documents in general are reduced to a minimum. In addition to some 427,000 manuscripts (volumes, files, and pieces) the department holds about 3,000 maps and plans (some being in MS. form) together with approximately 25,000 historical photographs, drawings, lithographs, etc., comprising portraits of prominent South Australians, views of townships and cities, public works and buildings, and illustrations of an extremely wide range of other

subjects such as costumes, uniforms, the various forms of transport, floods, fires, etc. This pictorial material is in steady demand as documentary material or for purposes of illustration.

#### STAFF TRAINING

In 1955 the library appointed a Staff Training Officer to conduct classes for the examinations of the Library Association of Australia, and to give in-service training courses.

New recruits attend a Basic Training Program of lectures on the functions and organization of the library, personnel regulations, librarianships as a career, and such basic techniques as card filing and the issuing of books.

The Staff Training Officer conducts classes for the Preliminary examination and teaches students studying all the Registration subjects except R51. These classes

are open, free of charge, to librarians from the other libraries of the State. This year there are over ninety students enrolled.

#### BINDERY

The Library has its own book bindery employing 15 people and fully equipped to carry out the binding and repairing of the library's books. Approximately 10,000 books are bound each year.

#### YOUTH LENDING SERVICE

A special service to look after the needs of young people between the ages of 13 and 18 years will be opened within the next few months under the name of "Youth Lending Service". It has been found that most children as soon as they reach their teens stop using the Children's Library. The new service should keep them interested in books and reading until they are old enough to use the Adelaide Lending Service.

## School Libraries

Because South Australia lacks free local libraries, and because the Government-subsidised Institutes have taught a large part of the public to regard "libraries" merely as sources of ephemeral fiction, the State can hardly be expected to show a vigorous interest in school libraries. However, most schools have collections of books—collections varying widely in qualitative and quantitative adequacy—and at present there are signs of better things to come.

School libraries, real or nominal, exist in both Departmental and private schools. There is no means of ensuring co-ordination between the two groups; and there are no official links between school libraries and the Public Library of South Australia, although the latter's Country Children's Book Service sends boxes of books, on request, to country schools, as well as serving individual children in rural areas.

The Educational Department is entirely responsible for the provision of library facilities in Departmental schools, and at

present a library room is included in the building plans of all the larger new schools. Until recently these rooms measured 24 feet by 24 feet. Reckoning on a required working space of 25 square feet for each child using the library, this gives adequate room for only 23 children, whereas in many of the larger schools, classes may average between 40 and 50 pupils. If children are to receive library lessons, seating and table space have to be provided for the largest class likely to use the library. There is inevitably overcrowding and congestion, and the teacher-librarian must find great difficulty in planning a good room lay-out. Working space, generally, is not provided, and the rooms are really class rooms—their design shows no provision for library use. At present, when most schools are overcrowded, many headmasters are tempted to use the "library" as a class room.

In 1956, 259 schools had library rooms; 169 of the smaller one-or-two room schools had "library corners", equipped with

shelving, tables and chairs; and there were 29 schools, held in such public buildings as the local hall, where open shelving could not be used. These last had mobile shelving units with doors that could be locked when the "school" reverted, at weekends, to dance room or concert hall.

A few schools have no central library, but retain class room "libraries", despite the obvious advantages of at least potentially better service, and of economy, that may be expected from the central library, especially where the latter provides service to class rooms as well as to individual children and teachers. Because even those schools with central libraries do, in many cases, retain and add to the old class collections, statistics of book holdings and expenditure on books in Departmental schools are likely to be misleading.

Furniture for library rooms is supplied free to all schools, in the form of standard shelving, units for periodicals and reference books, tables, chairs, librarian's desk and card cabinets. All necessary cards are supplied on request.

The Education Department subsidises book purchases pound for pound, *without limit*, and also pays a similar subsidy on approved purchases of floor coverings, curtains, pictures, and additional furniture. This means that the provision of school library service is basically dependent on voluntary effort by parents. In "backward" areas, where the school library is most needed to counteract the lack of background and general knowledge among children, this voluntary support is often difficult to secure. And, despite the argument that the raising of funds is an effective means of securing parent-participation in school affairs, it is difficult to see on what grounds school library books can be regarded as subsidised amenities rather than provided essentials in any system of modern education.

Administration of libraries in Departmental schools is in the hands of an Organiser of School Libraries—at present Mrs. Jeffrey (nee Gwenda Harslett), formerly of the Public Library of S.A. She is responsible to the Director of Education for a range of duties that includes: planning school libraries; advice on book

selection; book purchasing for schools on request (there is no central purchasing service); preparation of book lists on request; visits to schools, to give inspirational talks to parents and school committees, and to give teacher-librarians advice and assistance with general organisation and processing. She also conducts 4-day schools of library instruction.

The Organiser of School Libraries is responsible for library services in all S.A. and Northern Territory schools—infant, primary, technical and high. She has no field officers; there are approximately 742 schools (including Infant Departments) in these States; and more than 2,000 adventurous miles separate the pubs of Port Darwin from the potato fields of Mt. Gambier.

And in South Australian schools there are, as yet, practically no teacher-librarians with library training. Fortunately the Organiser of School Libraries is well aware of the primary necessity for securing trained personnel; and fortunately there are in the State people with a sincere interest in education and librarianship. As a result, in 1956 the Organiser of School Libraries asked the Public Library of S.A. for assistance with the training of teachers, and Staff Training Officer, Jean Whyte, admitted teachers from both Departmental and private schools to her Preliminary classes. Seven of these teachers passed the Preliminary, and one went on to do some Registration work in the same year. This year, despite her own heavy teaching load and a formidable burden of administrative work, Miss Whyte is again lecturing to a group of teachers.

This year, too, a new Teachers' College has been opened at Wattle Park in the foot hills near the city. In the interests of librarianship, Miss Joan Holland agreed to leave her beloved Long Range Weapons Establishment library and apply for the position of lecturer-librarian at the new college. As a former high school teacher, a qualified librarian, and a very active member of the Library Association of Australia—she is a past President of the S.A. Branch, a Councillor, and a worker on committees—Miss Holland is an ideal choice



for this seminary position. Together with her colleague Miss Joan Shaw of Adelaide Teachers' College, she has organised lectures on librarianship and visits to other libraries for College students.

As soon as trained teacher-librarians become available, school libraries should begin really to function in this State. At present the existing libraries can give little service, simply because their personnel are unaware of library aims and the potentialities of library service.

Most school libraries lend books to children, but a lending system without an active and intelligent policy of reader guidance tends to serve only those children who are already habitual readers, and it does little to direct, extend and stimulate the interests of this group. And there are still extreme cases where a conservative headmaster regards the "library" as a show room, and will not permit free borrowing. It should be noted that even the minor organisation necessary to allow children from many classes to borrow books can be a heavy burden on the teacher-librarian whose library duties are essentially "spare time". When the teacher-librarian lacks experience, when he is ignorant of the principles of librarianship and of the purposes and functions of the school library, and when he is therefore unable to "sell" the idea of library service to an unsympathetic headmaster or to apathetic colleagues, even unguided borrowing on any scale is scarcely possible. Such borrowing tends to drift into the charge of class teachers, when it may come to wreck on the Scylla of unstimulated and unguided taking of books, or on the Charybdis of regimented and compulsory borrowing.

In most S.A. schools which have a central library class teachers time table "library lessons". But where, as in this State, the teachers concerned are untrained in library use and unaware of the library's purposes, such lessons are of little value. They may become "free" periods, when the teacher relaxes while a few children read and a majority leaf through the illustrations in encyclopaedias, technical non-fiction and periodicals; or they may become authoritarian lectures on books. And it needs few

repetitions of "You *must* read . . ." and "This is a *good* book . . ." to turn the reluctant reader forever from books.

Many S.A. teachers are recruited from the country. They have never had access to a local library, and most of them have never had adequate instruction in library use while in the Teachers' College. Such teachers do not understand even the elementary principles of classification; shelf arrangements are a mystery to them; and they cannot use a catalogue. They are obviously unfitted to train children to use library facilities.

As trained teacher-librarians become available they will have to solve the problem of somehow finding time, away from their already full-time class room duties, to give planned courses of library lessons to all classes. They will have to enlist the sympathy of headmasters and of other teachers; they will have to organise library lessons so that their own time tables, the library time table, and the time tables of all other classes synchronise; they will have, at the same time, to find periods in which they can instruct library monitors; they will have to find time for processing; above all, at all times, they will have to fight the depression that comes from trying to do a multiplicity of duties, and, through sheer lack of time, failing to do any of them perfectly.

But in most S.A. schools such problems belong to the future. Few school libraries have catalogues; very few have a teacher-librarian capable of making a catalogue or of explaining its workings to children. And few teachers have the wide and critical knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, children's literature which are the prerequisites for all library book talks which aim to interest children in books and reading.

Because all library work with children demands an intimate knowledge of children's books, book collections in S.A. schools are not likely to be of high quality, except in the growing number of cases where the advice of the Organiser of School Libraries has been sought. Some collections, indeed, are frankly bad, with shelves cluttered with Enid Blyton, the old "A.L."

Bright Story Readers, and even with late Victorian stories that would delight the adamantine hearts of Hannah More and Sarah Trimmer. The use of the standard reviews such as those in the Junior Bookshelf for book selection is exceptional, and many schools select books by bookshop browsing. And in far too many cases there is no selection. The school orders, say, twenty pounds' worth of books from a supplier, and takes without question the often amazing collection that is sent.

All this means that fiction standards tend to be low, that the non-fiction shelves tend to contain dreary masses of school text books (which help to negate one of the library's aims: that of showing children that, besides the familiar fiction and the too familiar school texts, there are good non-fiction works for reading and reference.) Above all, it means that collections have no pretensions to balance and, because they are not the product of purposive selection, cannot contribute to the needs of the children and of the teaching program.

Even where fair collections exist, their usefulness is too often limited by the absence of a catalogue, or by the presence of an amateur's catalogue with inadequate subject headings and incomplete reference links. For this reason, and because of the lack of teacher-librarians with training in reference work, such school libraries are quite unable to supply the information needs of the class teacher, or of the child who is tackling independent project work. And, of course, such school libraries cannot equip children with the skills necessary to use the library facilities which they will need in adult life. And they cannot show children how and why libraries are essential in the modern community.

From the above, it appears that S.A. needs, primarily, trained teacher-librarians, and an attempt is now being made to satisfy this need. Next, in order to secure uniformly good book collections throughout the State, and to stop the waste of public money paid as subsidies on the purchase of trash, a central book-purchasing organisation is necessary. Further, because it will be many years before S.A. has sufficient

teacher-librarians, and because many of these will have to be spare—or part—time librarians, a central cataloguing service, worked in conjunction with the book purchase scheme, is necessary if the school libraries are really to serve the schools, if book collections are really to be used, and if children are to learn to use library facilities.

But even given these things, teacher-librarians, especially in out-lying schools, will still continue to need inspiration, guidance and technical advice, and consequently the Organiser of School Libraries should have a staff of competent and enthusiastic field workers employed in visiting schools.

Last: should there be some means of integrating the work of the Public Library and the school libraries of the State? An administrative link is probably undesirable: American practice shows that school libraries function best and most economically where control is undivided. But school libraries should train and condition children to use *all* library facilities, not merely those in the schools. For the school library, considered as an isolated entity existing only to serve a particular school is probably a social extravagance. And the Public Library has a wealth of resources and of technical experience that might be used to help the struggling school libraries. Furthermore, if it is granted that schools exist to provide free and equal opportunities for development and self-realisation to all children, to provide means whereby the life of the individual who is at once a child and a potential adult may be enriched, to give him a key to the treasure house of human experience and thus to equip him for life in society, and by so doing to enrich, ennoble and develop that society; and if it be granted that these are also, in the adult world, the functions of the public library, then surely some channel should exist whereby the developing citizen can be directed and induced towards the sources of further developmental material and opportunity. The school is ideally placed to build such a channel.

See also: Buick, W. G. Regional planning and the future of libraries in South Australia. In *The Aust. Lib. Jnl.* v. 1, 5: 103-107.



# Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide

By W. A. COWAN, M.A., A.B.L.S.  
*Librarian of the Barr Smith Library*

The Barr Smith Library was the gift of the late Tom Elder Barr Smith. The building, which was opened in March, 1932, is a memorial to his father, Robert Barr Smith, who gave the original endowment which was later supplemented by members of his family. Tom Elder Barr Smith added to his gift by establishing an endowment in 1941.

Essentially the building comprised a Reading Room to accommodate 180 readers and 15,000 books, spacious administrative quarters, and stacks under the Reading Room to hold about 100,000 volumes. Within a few years, since a Periodicals Room had not been provided, it was necessary to carve one out of the administrative area which could no longer be called spacious. The building which was designed to seat 180 readers now seats 352. Its original capacity of 115,000 volumes has been extended to 160,000 of the 203,000 volumes in the whole library system. There is a limit, however, to the compressibility of both readers and books and a Committee is now planning extensions which, it is hoped, will be built before that limit is reached.

There are three Departmental Libraries, for Medicine, Law, and Music, with 30,000, 8,000 and 5,000 volumes respectively. An agreement was made with the S.A. Branch of the British Medical Association nearly 50 years ago whereby the Branch incorporated its library in the University Library and undertook to make an annual grant in exchange for full library privileges for its members. A Joint Committee of the Association and of the Faculty of Medicine supervises the selection of books and journals purchased from this grant and from a corresponding grant made by the University for clinical subjects in the Faculty of Medicine. The advantages of

this agreement are that money which would otherwise have been spent on duplication is available for the purchase of a wide range of journals and books and that medical practitioners have the opportunity of maintaining close contact with the Medical School.

The staff consists of 16 professional members and 8 clerical members, plus student help amounting to 54 hours a week. It is the policy of the Library Committee to appoint only graduates to the professional staff and to make promotion conditional on the obtaining of the Preliminary and Registration Certificates of the Association. The growth of the Library is gradually making it possible to make a clearer division between clerical and professional duties so that future appointments are likely to be mainly to the clerical staff.

It is also the policy of the Committee to offer, with the minimum of formality, as wide a range of services as can be provided with the present limited staff and in the present building. The University requires all students to pay a general service fee, and on payment of this they are entitled to have on loan at any one time six books for a fortnight, with the right of renewal for another fortnight. Graduates of this University and of other universities recognized by it are granted the same privileges on lodging a deposit of £2. The only restrictions on borrowing by members of the academic staff are that unbound journals may not be kept for more than a week and that all publications on loan must be returned to the Library in December each year for the annual check.

The stacks are open to all students enrolled for third-year or later courses. The 25,000 volumes on open access in the Reading Room are selected with a view to

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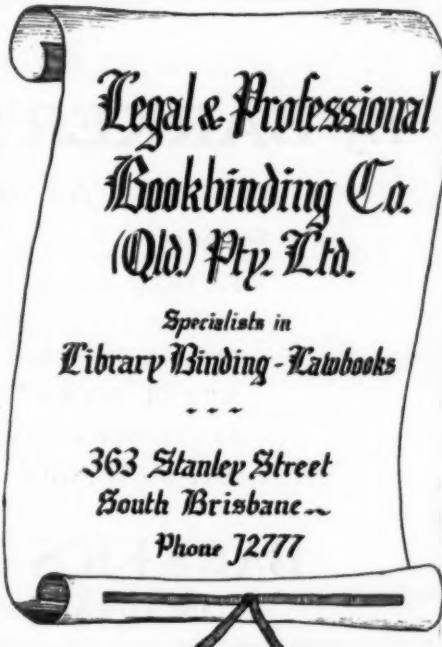
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meeting most of the needs of students in their first and second years. First-year students are shown over the Library in rather large groups during Orientation Week. For third- and fourth-year students a more systematic introduction is given. Groups of from six to ten students in each subject are given lists of their main journals and reference works and are then taken over the Library to make a detailed examination of these publications on the shelves. In better circumstances much more could be done to make students familiar with the bibliographical tools of their trade.

A Country Lending Section is maintained for the use of students in the country who are exempted from attendance at lectures in the Faculty of Arts. Multiple copies of books recommended for essays or for reference are kept in this Section. A small annual fee is charged to cover the cost of providing these extra copies and the cost of outward postage.

The strongest sections of the Library are those for the medical and biological sciences

and for mathematics. A continuous effort has been made for years to build up the medical and biological sides through exchanges with the "Australian journal of experimental biology and medical science", which is published by the University. Most of the other sections (outside the sciences) are adequate for teaching purposes but below the standard needed for research. To bring them all up to research standard will be a slow and costly process. So that some results may be visible within a shorter time the Committee has established a special annual fund for the purchase of nineteenth-century literary and sociological works. Two substantial acquisitions as a basis for this programme have been the microprint edition of the British House of Commons Sessional Papers 1731-1800 and 1801-1900 and of the Journal of the House of Commons 1547-1900, and the microfilm edition (now in its sixth year and amounting to 100,000 pages a year) of English literary periodicals of the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries.

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# Government Departmental Libraries in South Australia

By PETER RUSSELL,

*Librarian in Charge, Government Department Libraries, Public Library of S.A.*

In 1949 the Public Library of South Australia provided an officer to establish a technical library at the Department of Mines. This was the first government departmental library staffed by Public Library officers, but since that time, as the departments realise the value of a technical library staffed and supervised by trained librarians, there has been a steady growth in the number of libraries. The Royal Society of South Australia pays for the services of a public library officer, and the work of this officer is supervised by the Officer in Charge of Government Departmental Libraries.

Thirteen departments and the Royal Society and National Fitness Council, have now been provided with libraries which are staffed by 14 officers of the Public Library. These are the Department of Mines which has six branch libraries, School of Mines and Industries with two, Engineering and Water Supply Department with three, South Australian Museum with six, Botanic Gardens, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (these are staffed by one or more full-time librarians), Department of Industry, Department of Health, Woods and Forests Department, Royal Society of South Australia, Education Department, Lands Department, Chemistry Department, National Fitness Council, and the Architect-in-Chief's Department (these being staffed from a few hours to three days a week). The libraries have a total book stock of over 66,000 volumes, and last financial year £6,064 was spent on books and periodicals. The Mines Department, Museum and Royal Society are the largest libraries, each having over 10,000 volumes.

Departments are expected to provide all the publications and materials required, and to do all the typing, whilst the Public Library provides the trained officers who staff the libraries.

The bulk of the work is in answering queries and circulating periodicals. The Research Service of the Public Library of South Australia answers queries and compiles bibliographies on those subjects which the librarians are unable to answer because of lack of reference works. As with most special libraries, many publications are borrowed on inter-library loan, mainly from the Public Library of South Australia and the Barr Smith Library. Periodicals are circulated to about 500 officers by a system of controlled circulation to individuals, this being the only way to ensure that they are seen by those interested in a reasonable time, and also limiting the number received to the reading capacities of the officers. New publications are purchased mainly on the recommendation of officers, the librarians only recommending those which are needed as working tools.

Future plans include:

1. The establishment of a Central Library. This will be the administrative headquarters of the section, and will include the libraries of six departments. It is at present under construction, and plans are being made to move the first library into the new quarters during April. As three of the departments have no libraries at present, there will be many publications to process before this library will be in order.
2. Union list of periodicals. A union list of the holdings of all Departmental libraries is to be compiled for inclusion in the "Pitt List", and also to enable economies to be made in the purchases and holdings of the libraries.
3. The Central Library will be the training centre for librarians joining the Government Departmental Libraries section before they are sent to some of the smaller libraries.

# Special Libraries in South Australia

By JOAN HOLLAND, B.A., Dip.Ed.

*Librarian of Wattle Park Teachers College*

The special libraries in South Australia, with the exception of the technical library of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters at Port Pirie, are in the metropolitan area. These libraries vary considerably in size and in scope. Many of them have grown by degrees from a small group of books housed in various offices or laboratories to a library, recognised as such, with a separate room or building and with a staff member to organise the collection. In many cases this staff member has not been a qualified librarian although, of latter years, some of them have attended lectures on the Preliminary Examination Course, held at the Public Library of South Australia.

There are several large libraries in the various State government departments. These are staffed by librarians seconded from the Public Library. The Mines Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science are typical.

Some Commonwealth departments also have libraries. The biggest of these is the library of the Weapons Research Establishment which has already been described in an earlier issue of this journal.<sup>1</sup> This is the largest technical library in South Australia. The Department of Supply has another technical library at the Defence Standards Laboratories at Finsbury. In the city itself, there is a library at both the Departments of Works and Housing and of Labour and National Service, the Repatriation Department has a library both in the city and at the Repatriation Hospital, Springbank, and the Department of Civil Aviation has a technical library, not far from the city.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has a very attractive, modern library in the Division of Biochemistry and General Nutrition, in the University grounds. The Division of Soils is housed at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and is served by the Institute's library. This is one of the larger and better known special libraries.

Many other companies and institutions have libraries some of which are not staffed by qualified librarians. Contact has been made with these people, visits have been arranged by the Special Libraries' Section, South Australian Division, and there is a very friendly spirit of co-operation. The Electricity Trust of South Australia, the Institute of Management, Philips Electrical Industries Ltd., the Adelaide Chemical Works, Kelvinator Ltd., "The News" and "The Advertiser" have libraries in this category.

Other special libraries are the Parliamentary Library and the Medical Library. The Medical Library serves both the University and the British Medical Association and is staffed by members of the University Library.

It will be seen that the number of special libraries is not large and that it is comparatively easy for the librarians to keep in close contact both with one another and with the two major libraries, the Public Library of South Australia and the Barr Smith Library of the University. There may be other libraries not mentioned in this rather general survey but it should give some indication of places likely to be of interest to interstate visitors. And any visitor, who has the time and the inclination, would be assured of a welcome at the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Library at Port Pirie, about four hours' journey from Adelaide.

1. Joan Holland. The Weapons Research Establishment Library. *In Aust. Lib. Jnl.* v. 4; 3: 102-104.



# Waite Agricultural Research Institute Library

By Miss S. J. SUSMAN, B.Sc.

*Librarian of Waite Agricultural Research Institute Library*

The Waite Institute was founded by the University of Adelaide in 1924 as a result of the gift to the University by Mr. Peter Waite of an estate, a mansion house and a trust fund. The property, some 300 acres of agricultural and grazing land, is within four miles of the city of Adelaide.

The scientific work of the Institute is centred round the aspects of plant science that have a bearing on the agricultural and pastoral problems of South Australia. The main subjects of investigation may be included in the following groups—Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Crop Genetics, Plant Physiology, Plant Pathology, Entomology and Agricultural Chemistry.

In addition to the research programmes, the Institute supplies to the State Departments of Agriculture and Forestry scientific advisory services in Plant Pathology and Entomology.

As part of the University, the Waite Institute shares in the academic work of the Faculty of Agricultural Science, providing courses of instruction in a number of subjects leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science. Post-graduate instruction is available for students working for the Honours Degree, Masters Degree and Ph.D.

The Division of Soils of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has had its headquarters at the Waite Institute since its establishment in 1929, and a close relationship between the associated research bodies has been maintained. Scientific work is carried out in the fields of Soil Survey and Pedology, Soil Chemistry, Soil Physics and Soil Microbiology.

The Oenological Research Unit of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has been housed at the Waite Institute since 1935. The investigations are carried out in association with the Australian Wine Board.

The Waite Institute Library must meet as far as possible the needs of all personnel whether attached to the Institute, the Division of Soils, the Oenological Unit or the Student group. It is not a branch of the University Library, but operates on a separate budget and carries out all its administrative and routine functions as an independent unit. It does, however, send a record of its holdings to the Barr Smith Library, so that the catalogue of the Barr Smith is a union catalogue of the holdings of the Barr Smith and Waite Institute.

There are 11,000 volumes in the library stock, including books and bound journals. In addition to 300 periodical subscriptions there are some hundreds of serials received through either presentation or exchange.

As is evident from the scope of all subjects investigated, there is need for a wide selection of publications. Efforts have been made to stock up with a comprehensive collection of reference and text-books in all fields. Publishers' catalogues and notices are displayed each week in the Reading room, together with recent issues of journals. From these sources staff members recommend new book purchases or periodicals, which are submitted for approval to the Library Committee. This comprises three senior officers who meet regularly with the librarian to discuss the suggestions for new purchases and advise on any other library topics which might arise.

Naturally there is no such thing as complete independence and the library is extremely grateful to receive so much co-operation in the matter of inter-library loans, not only from local libraries, but also from those in other States. However, the Waite Library is very glad to reciprocate and with its increasing range of material is now proving useful to both local and interstate libraries.

A Students' Library has been set up as a separate unit, and stocked with the

prescribed text-books and reference books for the subjects in the course. The undergraduates have access to the material in the main library and are granted full borrowing privileges.

In addition to maintaining the Waite Institute Library and the Students' Collection, the staff, consisting of a librarian and two assistants, catalogues material for the Division of Soils, which is acquiring a collection of books, periodicals and pamphlets. The catalogue is held in the main library, but the material is distributed in C.S.I.R.O. rooms throughout the building. The binding arrangements for the Division's journals are handled by the library staff.

The Waite Library, in common with most, has its problems. Space is running out, but to ease the situation a large room has been made available in another building on the property. This now means that a considerable amount of sorting of material will have to take place before it is decided what publications will be sent there for storage. There are many schemes worked out for improving the library, but so far they are only on paper. One must be patient and wait and plan for the time when adequate staff and sufficient space are a reality, and it will be possible to provide excellent service under the best conditions.

## The South Australian Parliamentary Library

By E. W. LANYON

*Parliamentary Librarian*

This year South Australia is celebrating its centenary of responsible government, the first Parliament having met in April 1857. Before this, the State had been governed by a Legislative Council, which, prior to 1851 was wholly nominated. In December 1851, only a few months after the first meeting of a new partly elected Legislative Council, a proposal was made to establish a library. A Library Committee was formed in September 1853 and the first Librarian appointed in February 1854. He combined his duties with those of Assistant Clerk of the Council. The first books were ordered in August 1854 together with periodicals, maps and a pair of 36 inch globes, one terrestrial and the other celestial which still hold a fascination for all visitors to the library.

The Library is a separate department of the Legislature and is under the control of a Committee consisting of four Members from each House, and has a staff of four. The stock of some 65,000 volumes covers a wide subject field, parliamentary and constitutional works predominating, and does not include fiction, a fact of which the Members are quite proud, and a point they

never fail to make in showing the Library to visitors. Being housed in the wing which was not completed until 1939, the Library can claim the all too rare advantage of being comfortably and attractively accommodated.

The main function of the Library is to assist Members of Parliament in the performance of their legislative, administrative and social duties. During their term of office, Members are called on to discuss publicly intricate and complex subjects with which they are sometimes naturally unfamiliar and they are very appreciative of information to help in such a situation. At conferences like our own, school speech nights, flower shows, bowling carnivals or foundation stone laying ceremonies, the words may not flow as smoothly were it not for a little quiet meditation in the Library. In addition to the 59 State Members, 21 South Australian Federal Members use the Library, while State and Federal Government Departments, Members of the Judiciary, local and semi-government authorities often call for facts. Although it is not generally open to the public, this rule

is waived when the required information is not easily obtainable elsewhere.

The collection is classified in 25 broad classes of unknown origin, some of which correspond exactly to Library of Congress. Within the classes, books are grouped alphabetically by author. Close classification has never been attempted because of lack of staff, and also because of indecision on the

best classification to adopt, a problem which Conference may be able to help resolve.

An interesting experiment was begun last year when 40 volumes of recreational reading were hired from a subscription library. The books are exchanged quarterly, and the scheme seems commendable from all points of view, with savings in money, space and time.

## Correspondence

### ACER AND LAA

*This letter has been received from Mr. John Metcalfe:*

In the *Journal* for July 1956, Mr. Scott repeated a common misunderstanding, that, in his words, the AIL "had been living for years on the generosity of the ACER and indirectly of the Carnegie Corporation"; in the October issue I pointed out that this was not true, and stated briefly what I understood to have been the relations of the two bodies; in the January 1957 issue, Dr. Cunningham came in on behalf of ACER and its first President, Mr. Frank Tate. Besides Mr. Tate as President and himself as a former Director of the ACER, he mentions Mr. Remington, founder and Executive Chairman of the Free Library Movement in New South Wales, and Mr. Binns, formerly Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian. Tate (1938), Remington (1940) and Cunningham (1941) are the only people whom the AIL, and the LAA, ever made honorary members for services to their objects, and Mr. Binns was AIL President, 1940-41.

Dr. Cunningham says he is now writing an "authentic account" of the events in question; I have often asked, even begged him to do so; I have written on them as occasion required, and hope shortly to do so more fully, from personal knowledge, and documents open to me, which will be open to Dr. Cunningham, as I am sure his

will be to me. In the meantime, on the points he has raised:

1. He agrees that the AIL did not live on the generosity of the ACER, which was my principal point. Like the ACER the AIL lived, as its successor the LAA is living, partly on the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation, which has always been gratefully acknowledged.

2. He does not deny that the Commonwealth Government, advised by Mr. Binns, asked him and the ACER to sponsor and organise the McColvin survey, which they did without any consultation by any of them of the Library Group, or the AIL, or four of the States, including New South Wales and Queensland, both of which had passed and were putting new Library Acts into operation at the time, which was 1946. At the most the Library Group, which was not a representative body, had had before it a suggestion that Mr. Binns might whilst abroad look into the possibility of a British surveyor, and possibly a suggestion that he might be Mr. McColvin, but nothing more before the *fait accompli* was announced by Dr. Cunningham in August, 1946. This was my second principal point.

3. I agree that some librarians took neither offence nor action, whereas I took both on behalf of bodies to which I belonged. I was particularly offended on behalf of the AIL, because it appeared that Dr. Cunningham, an Honorary Member, and Mr. Binns, a Past President, discussed details of the proposed survey with each other, and others, whilst they were attend-

ing the AIL's conference in Hobart in April 1946, and whilst its Council was in session, but did not see fit to take into their confidence the Conference, or the Council, or any of the Executive Members, whereas in 1933 Mr. Frank Tate had discussed what became the Munn-Pitt survey in open conference of the old Australian Library Association. And this seemed to me to dispose of the excuse that whilst there had been time to inform the Public Library of Victoria, the State Library of Tasmania, the University of Melbourne, and others, there had been no time or opportunity to inform authorities in other States or the only body representing librarians, the AIL, or the Free Library Movement.

4. As the Premier of New South Wales took issue in the matter with the Prime Minister, and the Queensland Government and its Library Board persisted in not receiving Mr. McColvin officially, it seems to me questionable that "the only serious perturbation" was in my mind, or without reason. Mr. Binns and Dr. Cunningham, and those they took into their confidence, may have had "the interests of the AIL at heart at least just as much as did Mr. Metcalfe", the "innuendo" being that they had them more at heart, but then it seems to me to follow that they considered its interests best served by refusing it the confidence in a library matter which they placed in non-librarians, even whilst they patronised its conference.

5. Many of the chief librarians, State library trustees, and other laymen, who undoubtedly had had library service at heart, took honour and office from the AIL as their due, but their attitude was one of patronage; they had their libraries and other organizations more at heart than the AIL, and though they welcomed and helped to put the Munn-Pitt Report into effect, they did not realise how far, by the forties, the scene surveyed in the Munn-Pitt Report had been changed and was being changed, not so much by them as by the AIL and FLM and the new, and younger men, who had founded these new organizations and made them successful.

6. On the transfer to the AIL of the balance of the Carnegie fund held by the

ACER for expenditure on the advice of the Library Group, however spontaneously and on whatever suggestions and reasons the ACER made the transfer, it was the shock and humiliation of the by-passing of the Free Library Movement, the AIL and the Group by two honoured members of the last two that convinced me that the AIL should be turned into the LAA, and the Carnegie Corporation pressed to deal directly with the LAA in library matters. One event followed the other, and if one was not the cause of the other for Dr. Cunningham and the ACER, or even for the AIL, it was the deciding factor for me, who initiated and carried through the reorganization, and only kept the issue in question out of the general discussions for the sake of appearances and unanimity, once McColvin had come, and gone.

7. Even when Dr. Cunningham had admitted that the New South Wales Library Board had some justification for its protest, and pleaded that he had only met a request of the Commonwealth Government, he still proposed taking Mr. McColvin himself from Sydney to Canberra, and to show him en route the public libraries which members of the Board had worked ten years to get established, with an invitation to the Board's Executive Member to accompany them, if he cared to. There appeared to be no realisation of the sensitivity that State and local authorities had developed since the Munn-Pitt Report to such publicised reports on their library defects, and I had to arrange the best that could be got in Queensland, a civic reception, and accompany Mr. McColvin there, just as Mr. Remington and myself as Board members, and Mr. McGreal as its Secretary, had to arrange suitable and useful receptions for Mr. McColvin, and accompany him all over New South Wales.

8. In New South Wales at least, the important effect of Mr. McColvin's visit was not through his report but through his missionary tour, in which he was presented at public meetings, not as an inspecting librarian, but as a representative just after the War, of the Library Association, of the British Council, of Westminster, of London, of England herself, in their "finest

hour". All of which he was. But there would have been little more than a professional librarian's report, much less effective than the Munn-Pitt Report, because it came after it, if the proposed arrangements had not been radically altered by those who had been ignored, and especially by Mr. Remington, the organiser of the Free Library Movement, who alone has showed the combination of ability, imagination, enthusiasm and energy in library promotion for over twenty years, which puts him with Mr. Justice Barry, and Mr. Frank Tate, amongst the laymen who have really greatly served the causes of library service and librarians.

9. Others can judge how far I have gone in this controversy and in other writings, "out of my way" and by way of "half facts" to minimise "the importance of Mr. Tate's pioneering work". I have never intended to attempt "impossible comparisons of these men"; only for the record, so that there would not be "history by innuendo", and for the benefit of the future which is the chief justification of a careful study and record of the past, have I tried to show how one did pioneering work in given circumstances, and how others carried on in the circumstances the other had changed. Without Tate it seems clear there would not have been the Munn-Pitt Report when and how it was, although we still need some enlightenment on what was done by leaders of the old Victorian Library Association; without Remington, who literally took a copy of the Munn-Pitt Report from Tate's hands, it would not, for good or ill, have been given effect in the way it was. If I only have half facts, Dr. Cunningham has the other half, and he can remedy my innuendoes by publishing his authentic account.

Finally I would like to thank Professor Morris Miller, another Victorian, for his contribution. He has never had his due for his Association efforts, and the great foresight of his book *Libraries and Education*. If he had not become a professor of philosophy in Tasmania, and the 1914-18 War had not intervened, much that followed on the Munn-Pitt Report might well have followed on his work.

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

formerly The Australian Institute of  
Librarians, founded 1937.

The eighteenth annual meeting was held in the Lecture Room, Public Library of New South Wales, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 21st June, 1956.

### Minutes

1. Present: The Vice-President, Mr. Metcalfe, in the chair, and 95 members, including members of the General Council. The Vice-President welcomed visitors and new members.

2. Notice Convening Meeting: The Honorary General Secretary read the notice convening the meeting as published in the *Australian Library Journal*, April, 1956, p. 44.

3. Apologies: Apologies were received from the President, the Hon. Sir John Morris (on vice-regal duties); Miss M. Ellinor Archer (abroad); Mr. J. D. A. Collier; Mr. G. C. Remington; Mr. E. Seymour Shaw; Mr. H. C. Brideson; Rev. Dr. C. Irving Benson (abroad); Mr. F. A. Sharr; Miss M. Evalyn Wood; Mr. Warwick Eunson; Mr. H. L. White.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the seventeenth annual meeting held on 25th August, 1955, as circulated in the *Australian Library Journal*, April, 1956, p. 44, were taken as read and confirmed.

5. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts: The annual report and an audited statement of accounts for 1955, as published in the *Australian Library Journal*, April, 1956, pp. 39-44, were submitted to the meeting in accordance with the Constitution. In the absence of the Honorary General Treasurer, the Honorary General Secretary tabled and elucidated a statement of accounts for the period 1st January to 31st May, 1956. This was received.

6. Auditor: Messrs. Cooper Bros., Way and Hardie, nominated by Mr. C. E. Smith and seconded by Mr. H. Peake, were appointed auditor until the next annual meeting.



7. Vote of Thanks: A vote of thanks to the President, Vice-President and General Council for their work during the year was carried by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. and was followed by a meeting of the New South Wales Branch and a demonstration of equipment of interest to libraries.

Date:

Confirmed:

Chairman.

General meeting held in the Lecture Room, Public Library of New South Wales, at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 30th October, 1956.

#### *Minutes*

1. Present: The President, Mr. Metcalfe, in the chair, and 23 members.

2. Notice Convening Meeting: The Honorary General Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. Apologies: Apologies were received from Miss M. Siebert and Mr. C. E. Smith.

4. Royal Charter: The President announced the purpose of the meeting to take the vote on the proposal submitted to members to approve the draft Royal Charter submitted and to authorize the presentation of a petition to the Queen's most excellent Majesty in Council for the grant of a charter of incorporation in the form of the draft. Messrs. R. M. McGreal and L. F. Walters were elected scrutineers to count the votes.

The meeting then adjourned until 6 p.m., when the scrutineers having counted the votes presented their report as follows:

For the proposal	562 votes
Against	9 votes
Informal	2 votes

Total 573 votes

Invalid as cast by unfinancial members: 15 votes.

The President announced the results and declared the resolution carried.

The meeting closed at 6.5 p.m.

Date:

Confirmed:

Chairman.

#### BOARD OF EXAMINATION

## Registration Examination Results, 1956

#### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

##### *Pass in three papers*

Slight, Owen Edmond.

##### *Pass in two papers*

Menzies, Walter Neil.  
Neilson, Nigel James Bruce.  
Somerville, Barbara Elizabeth.  
Thorn, William Darbyshire.  
Velins, Erika.

##### *Pass in one paper*

Campbell, Sheena Stewart.  
Nolan, Audrey Margaret.  
Van Pelt, Jan Daniel.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

##### *Pass in four papers*

Crosthwaite, Patricia Anne.  
Rewell, Moya Mary.

##### *Pass in three papers*

Allen, Geoffrey Gordon.  
Allen, Megan Constance.  
Carroll, Cecily Hyacinth.  
Chant, Avis.  
Fraser, Shirley Patricia.  
Glynn, Leone Carmel.  
Goodacre, Ann Audrey.  
Holmes, Margaret Mary Glennie (with Merit R2).  
Humphries, Shirley Gladys.  
Johnston, Marion Jean.  
McKay, Heather Jean (with Merit R10).  
McKinnon, Margaret.  
Nelson, Jack.  
O'Leary, Philippa Perpetua.  
Rovkin, Ruth.  
Shayler, John Lindow.



Smith, Marlene (with Merit R2).  
 Smith, Rose Therese.  
 Stilwell, Geoffrey Thomas.  
 Swan, Elizabeth Rose.  
 Taylor, Moira Cecilie.  
 Warren, Josephine Rose.  
 Young, Veronica Josephine.

*Pass in two papers*

Banks, Patricia Margaret.  
 Buck, Audrey Stephenie.  
 Davies, Mary Grace.  
 Everingham, Robyn Virginia.  
 Graham, Eunice Isobel.  
 Hall, Elaine Dorothy.  
 Hall, Noelene Maree.  
 Peake, Dorothy Graeme.  
 Pearson, Joan Ruth.  
 Power, Margaret Josephine.  
 Powrie, Audrey Ruth.  
 Prideaux, Brian Angus.  
 Saddington, Helen Menzies.  
 Scott, Margaret Joan.  
 Shaw, Judyth Ann (with Merit R2).  
 Simkin, John.  
 Warwick, Patricia Joan.  
 Westwood, Margaret Mary.

*Pass in one paper*

Beddie, Merle Kirkpatrick.  
 Collingridge, Winsome Mary.  
 Cottle, Cynthia Jane.  
 Cuskey, Janet Roberta.  
 Frost, Moya.  
 Gillam, Helen.  
 Guest, Asyna Veronica.  
 McMullen, Pamela.  
 Miles, Mary Adelaide.  
 North Jennepher Anne.  
 Parkes, Anne Stuart.  
 Ridge, Pamela Dorothy.  
 Robertson, Ruth Helen.  
 Rolnik, Zenon.  
 Rooke, Judith Mary.  
 Sim, Helen Grant.  
 Trask, Margaret.  
 Watson, Valma Mabel.

QUEENSLAND

*Pass in three papers*

Catchpoole, Anne Elizabeth.  
 Scott, David Barry.  
 Stukeley, Patricia Noel.

*Pass in two papers*

Greenstreet, Judith Anne.  
 Krohn, Edith Muriel.  
 Macmillan, Ann.  
 O'Keeffe, Mary (with Merit R2).  
 Smith, Jean Eunice.  
 Woodforth, Barbara Lyndon.

*Pass in one paper*

Aland, Ann Florance.  
 Denmead, Rosemary.  
 Jones, Marion.  
 McPhail, Isabel Jean.  
 Shearer, Barbara Ray.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*Pass in three papers*

Dawe, Peter Harold.  
 Fischer, Gerald Lyn (with Merit R8).  
 Hall, Dennis Royston (with Merit R10).  
 Mortimer, Arthur William.  
 Ralph, Peter.  
 Russell, Peter.  
 Smith, Jennifer Ann (with Merit R6).

*Pass in two papers*

Byrne, Bernadette Marie.  
 Dawe, Suzanne Mary.  
 Devitt, Helen Levaun.  
 Dunstan, Douglas Warwick.  
 Gray, Joan Elizabeth.  
 Noller, Patricia Margaret.  
 Ryan, Sydney Lawrence.  
 Selth, Geoffrey Poole.

*Pass in one paper*

Anderson, Iris.  
 Farmer, Geoffrey Arthur.  
 Fleming, Kathleen Doris.  
 Moore, Dorothy Jean.  
 Price, Margaret Anne.  
 Short, Phyllis Margaret.

TASMANIA

*Pass in two papers*

Donald, Mavis Lorraine.  
 Masterman, Evelyn Loois.  
 Moody, Diane Shaw.  
 Reynolds, Jennifer Mary (with Merit R8).

*Pass in one paper*

Lovett, Phillipa Ann.  
 Shone, Verna Jennifer.

# VICTORIA

## *Pass in five papers*

Lim, Beda.

## *Pass in four papers*

Cameron, Mary Lachlan.

## *Pass in three papers*

Baxter, Mary Louise.

Burrage, Winifred May.

Harrison, Judith Mary (with Merit R8).

Hollyock, Dulcie Iona.

## *Pass in two papers*

Anderson, Hugh McDonald.

Blain, Gillian Roper.

Burge, Mavis Eva.

Davey, Lois Jean.

Henderson, Joan Humphries.

Holman, George Clavering.

Hoskin, Margaret Edith.

Kemp, Clarice Grace.

Routley, Margaret.

Ward, John Livingstone.

## *Pass in one paper*

Eastwood, Isabel Margaret.

Harnett, Mary Florence.

Johns, Helen Wallace.

McMahon, Ida Dorothy.

Manley, Elizabeth Lucy.

Power, Lola Winifred.

Starling, Eva Jean.

Topperwein, Elaine.

The following completed the Registration Examination this year:

## A.C.T.

Neilson, Nigel James Bruce.

Nolan, Audrey Margaret.

Somervaille, Barbara Elizabeth.

## N.S.W.

Allen, Geoffrey Gordon.

Allen, Megan Constance.

Beddie, Merle Kirkpatrick.

Cuskey, Janet Roberta.

Davies, Mary Grace.

Hall, Noelene Maree.

McKay, Heather Jean.

Nelson, Jack.

O'Leary, Philippa Perpetua.

Rewell, Moya Mary.

Robertson, Ruth Helen.

Scott, Margaret Joan.

Trask, Margaret.

Watson, Valma Mabel.

Westwood, Margaret Mary.

## Queensland

McPhail, Isabel Jean.

Shearer, Barbara Ray.

## S.A.

Russell, Peter.

Smith, Jennifer Ann.

## Tasmania

Moody, Diane Shaw.

Reynolds, Jennifer Mary.

## Victoria

Burrage, Winifred May.

Cameron, Mary Lachlan.

Eastwood, Isabel Margaret.

Harnett, Mary Florence.

Harrison, Judith Mary.

Johns, Helen Wallace.

McMahon, Ida Dorothy.

Power, Lola Winifred.

## CANDIDATES SITTING OVERSEAS

### *Pass in two papers*

Pender, Margaret Mary.

### *Pass in one paper*

Ashton, Thelma.

Bettison, Margaret Selina.

Buckie, Joan Margaret.

All these overseas candidates have completed the requirements of the examination.

### *Passes in Groups of Papers*

1 who took 6 papers passed in 5

1 who took 6 papers passed in 3

1 who took 6 papers passed in 1

3 who took 4 papers passed in 4

9 who took 4 papers passed in 3

7 who took 4 papers passed in 2

3 who took 4 papers passed in 1

28 who took 3 papers passed in 3

22 who took 3 papers passed in 2

9 who took 3 papers passed in 1

23 who took 2 papers passed in 2

16 who took 2 papers passed in 1

13 who took 1 paper passed in 1

Total 140 who passed in one or more papers  
out of 181 who attempted one  
or more.

36 candidates completed the Registration Examination 1956.

## REPORT ON RESULTS

The following is the usual table of statistics:

		<i>Passes and Failures by Papers</i>			
		<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Merit</i>
R1.	Cataloguing, excluding classification and subject headings ..	52 (55.3%)	42 (44.7%)	94	—
R2.	Classification and subject headings	48 (63.2%)	28 (36.8%)	76	4
R3.	Cataloguing and Classification: Practical .. .. .	39 (42.4%)	53 (57.6%)	92	—
R4.	Provision, administration, processes and services of libraries				
	A. General reference libraries .. ..	7 (70%)	3 (30%)	10	—
	B. General lending libraries .. ..	20 (64.5%)	11 (35.5%)	31	—
	C. University and college libraries ..	10 (66.7%)	5 (33.3%)	15	—
R5.	Provision, administration, processes and services of special libraries and information services:				
	A-H .. .. .	11 (55%)	9 (45%)	20	—
	I. Australian .. ..	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)	6	—
R6.	History and purposes of libraries and related services .. ..	33 (67.3%)	16 (32.7%)	49	1
R7.	Production, acquisition and indexing of materials for research .. .. .	15 (57.7%)	11 (42.3%)	26	—
R8.	Production, publication, history and care of books .. ..	12 (70.6%)	5 (29.4%)	17	3
R9.	Archives, with special reference to Australia .. .. .	4 (66.6%)	2 (33.4%)	6	—
R10.	Work with children .. .. .	27 (64.3%)	15 (35.7%)	42	2

There is no occasion this year for a General Report. What has been said in previous years still holds, but there is some improvement in the average quality of most of the papers. This is borne out by the higher percentage of passes in some of the papers, and by the comments of some of the examiners on individual papers. Following are extracts from the examiners' reports.

### EXAMINERS' REPORTS

#### *R1. Cataloguing, Excluding Classification and Subject Headings*

The *ALA Cataloging Rules* were not known well. Candidates relied heavily upon the index to find illustrations and used ill-

considered examples, at best, or examples without meaning in context, at worst. Few could view the *Rules* as a whole and few had any real idea of the general principles of entry. Lubetsky was used widely, but was reproduced for the most part inaccurately in view of the questions asked. Candidates would be better advised to know the *Rules* very well indeed before attempting to appreciate critiques of them.

The structure of the catalogue was not well realised: confusion between added entries and references and between analytical entry and references was very general.

Apart from the *Rules* (ALA and LC), there are only three publications specifically mentioned in the syllabus, viz. *British*

*National Bibliography, British Museum Catalogue of printed books and the Library of Congress Author Catalog.* . . . Candidates confused both the LC Catalog and the British Museum Catalogue with B.N.B. Few realised that all three use different cataloguing codes. If candidates can be persuaded to handle the publications themselves, they may acquire some concrete knowledge of them. Of the three, B.N.B. was most familiar, but many candidates think of the British National Bibliography Council as an integral part of the British Museum and that its central cataloguing service only began with the issue of printed cards.

The papers, as a whole, showed that candidates lacked general knowledge of library economy. They frequently answered general questions by reference to their own particular experience only. The knowledge gained in passing the Preliminary Certificate had been forgotten by most, as evinced, for example, by their failing to mention the use of relevant reference books (mentioned in the Preliminary syllabus) as substitutes for analytical entry.

## R2. Classification and Subject Headings

On the whole the answers are better than in previous years and more to the points required, but still too many candidates show that they do not know enough to be certain of the point of many of the questions. . . .

A DC-UDC number question, an arrangement and a specific entry question have obviously become the tipsters' favourites. Candidates were prepared for this kind of UDC question, not for the kind given in *Question 1*. This was attempted by . . . most simply as a general shelf classification question and not as a UDC catalogue question, which it obviously is in the context of the quotation. . . . Candidates tend to read and use the words classification and classifying as referring only to the shelf.

The LC question, *Question 3*, was least favoured. . . . The next in neglect was *Question 6*, and both were poorly answered. Most candidates have only a dangerous knowledge of LC and *Chemical Abstracts*. . . . Too many candidates still follow some of the textbooks uncritically in the assumption

that anything alphabetical can only be for popular use, ignoring all the evidence of the dictionary catalogue in America and their own country, and of specialist indexes and encyclopaedias throughout the English speaking world. *Question 7* on Sears' was . . . done by more than half . . . and the answers showed that far too many still have as little grip of cross references in theory as they have in practice.

In *Question 5* "subject class" was taken by some to mean a primary or main class and they discussed further subject subdivision instead of the arrangement of books on the same subject . . .

In *Question 8* most of the 73% who attempted it gave one reason, the specific subject reason, but were at a loss for usage as another one. Some got round to avoiding class entry as a second reason, apparently without realising that this is only a negative version of the other, and few showed any recognition of the proverbial expression about calling a spade a spade, not an agricultural implement.

Most of those who did *Question 9* had done *Question 8* and in *Question 9* did little more than a variation. As of LC and *Chemical Abstracts*, some showed a dangerous knowledge of Kaiser, and interpreted "copper" as his "process", whereas copper coins is entirely a "concrete" or specific subject. And whereas LC and *Chemical Abstracts* are both named in the syllabus for the paper, Kaiser is not, and the question did not require any more knowledge of him than was given in it. . . . Reading outside the syllabus is not to be discouraged, but it should come after reading inside it.

## R3. Cataloguing and Classification: Practical

But for some exceptions, work in descriptive cataloguing was better than in last year's papers. The percentage of passes (2.9 points lower than in 1955) is mainly due to poor work in the other sections of the paper. In classification it was often difficult to retrace the thought that led to the numbers offered, while in subject cataloguing numerous answers were so con-

fused it was hard to distinguish degrees of merit at all.

The majority of failures are due to one or more of three main causes. Firstly, many candidates have not grasped basic principles. Secondly, many do not know well even the most generally applicable rules in the set texts. Thirdly, there are those who do not appear to have the general knowledge, or in some cases even the commonsense, that would allow them to apply what they may have studied quite earnestly. Examiners in this paper must take into account the fact that candidates are working within limits set by the information that can be given in the questions themselves and by the tools available to them in the examination room, but allowances made on this score can hardly be extended to the deficiencies mentioned above.

(a). *Descriptive Cataloguing*

*Question 4* caused the most trouble. Candidates who realised that Rule I, with its definition of author, is implicit in most of the other rules did not have difficulty in choosing a heading, and Rule 92A deals explicitly with the form of heading. Among the solutions offered, the most astounding were three in which the Polytechnic's Department of Applied Chemistry appeared as a Department of the British Government. A substantial minority entered *Question 5* under the *Bulletin*, while more, having entered it under compiler, gave the newspaper an added *author* entry. *Question 6* was the only one where form, not choice, of heading was the main problem. A fair number of candidates reached some definite conclusion based on a study of Rule 75A and/or the important "Exception" note to Rule 72. The rest showed no awareness that a problem was posed. Series, series tracings and series entries are the subject of much confusion. While the examiners adhere strictly to the syllabus statement on "minor and accepted variations", the L.C. Rules is nevertheless a set text, and a rational grasp of its principal rulings should be attempted. A number of candidates observe no recognisable forms, while others must waste much time in elaborate and

unnecessary transpositions in supposed conformity. Candidates who add explanatory notes should be careful that they add to, not subtract from the credit they have already established. An apparently thoughtful solution to *Question 2* was accompanied by a note that entry was made under personal author "because the German form of the corporate name was not known".

(b). *Classification*

The number of classifications offered was 33 for *Question 1*, 39 for *Question 2*, 31 for *Question 3*, 33 for *Question 4*, 49 for *Question 5* and 15 for *Question 6*. The principal weakness was failure to consider how the numbers chosen would actually group material for use. Many were obviously chosen straight from the Index, from misconstrued headings in Sears' or from single headings, or even words, in the Schedules without reference to the classes to which they belonged. Typical examples of this were 691.7 and 664.9 for *Question 4*, 629.13236 for *Question 6*, 708 and 579.8 for *Question 2*. A number for *Australian Literature-Collections* was far too often applied to *Question 5*. Where candidates used form numbers, geographical subdivisions and the "divide like the classification" device, only a minority used them correctly.

(c). *Subject Cataloguing*

Candidates, even those who can cope with references, continue to offer broadly inclusive or otherwise inappropriate headings, e.g., Thermodynamics for *Question 1*, Archaeology for *Question 2*, Biology for *Question 3*, Engineering for *Question 6*. . . Subheadings are hardly understood at all. Approximately 6 candidates used sensibly the well-established reference device "see also the subhead . . . under the names of . . ." Too often a supposed heading plus subheading was merely a paraphrase of a title, e.g., Electric Power—Geothermal Steam; Suspension Bridges—Wind Effects. In *Question 1* the ambiguity of the term "Steam Power", which they had been unaware of, or had not attempted to resolve, led many candidates into trouble, both in classification and subject cataloguing.

#### *R4. (A). General Reference Libraries*

The standard this year was more even and of a better average than last year. The chief criticism was that candidates, all potential reference officers, tended to offer everything they knew under the subject heading rather than endeavour to meet the specific needs of the enquirer, in this case the examiner. Some questions were framed to invite thought as well as knowledge and . . . a more clearheaded and systematic approach could have earned a higher reward . . .

*Question 1.* Apart from one good and well thought out answer and two that were weak, the remaining seven were of a fairly even standard, all showing to some extent, however, a failure to appreciate the full responsibilities, present and future, of the collections of a large reference library.

*Question 2.* Only one candidate attempted this. The examiners had expected a confident approach from potential reference officers familiar with the tools of their trade and anxious to pick up quick marks for specific knowledge.

*Question 3.* Fairly good marks were obtained on the whole . . . most candidates depended upon their reading rather than upon the practical requirements of an actual Australian situation. They tended as a result to discuss the question in a vacuum . . .

*Question 4 . . .* no candidate offered an answer.

*Question 5.* No really good answer was furnished. The question was approached too much from the point of view of individual libraries and the research and national economies of such co-operation were insufficiently stressed. Application to Australia and problems connected with it were imperfectly envisaged. The effects of specialisation or rationalised acquisition were not taken into account.

*Question 6 . . .* too many candidates were content to discuss only one recent development. The description of binding routine and records was cast in general terms . . . and one felt that candidates had not bothered to establish the scale of acquisition which "2,000 serials" implied . . .

*Question 7.* Only three candidates attempted this. None appeared to be familiar with the full range of UNESCO's bibliographical publications, such obvious reference tools as *Index Translationum* for example, not being mentioned. The activities of UNESCO were poorly understood.

*Question 8 . . .* most candidates exhibited some haziness concerning bibliographical research. Some even appeared to have little conception of reference work beyond "all the entries under the subject heading".

*Question 9.* This question was the best answered of the paper. Knowledge of the activities of the Commonwealth National Library was very good . . .

#### *R4. (B). General Lending Libraries*

The general impression gained was that the successful candidates were, on the whole, mediocre, whilst those who failed were just a little less than mediocre . . .

Only three papers were really bad failures. Most of the other eight who failed gave the impression that they had done insufficient reading, and were relying on rather limited experience to provide them with the answers to the questions. There were on the other hand a few who had gathered a certain amount of information from their reading, but lacked the experience to enable them to use it effectively. . . . Generally speaking, there is again too much evidence that students do not do enough reading in preparation for this paper . . .

*Question 1* was attempted by a majority of candidates. Those who failed . . . tried to answer the question from experience only and limited experience at that.

*Question 2.* This and *Question 7* were the most popular on the paper. Failure here was again caused by an almost complete dependence on the candidate's own experience of library processing, rather than knowledge of the theory of library organisation. Many candidates attempted to cover too much . . .

*Question 3.* This was apparently the most difficult of all the questions, since only seven attempted it and only four passed . . . with not completely satisfactory answers



... it is fairly obvious that the matter of statistical treatment of library operations is not one to which candidates are attracted.

*Question 4* was well answered by a majority of the candidates, although one did not know the meaning of the term "withdrawal", and devoted a couple of pages to a description of the Newark Charging System.

*Question 5.* This was a good testing question, and ... of the eleven who attempted it, nine gave adequate and satisfactory answers.

*Question 6.* Of the seventeen candidates who attempted this, only eleven passed, and most of them just barely ... all that was required was a knowledge of the library legislation since the Munn-Pitt Report in any Australian State. It is not unreasonable to expect that all candidates for this paper would be familiar with the legislation of all States.

*Question 7.* All but three candidates attempted this, and most of them answered it reasonably well ...

*Question 8.* Most candidates attempted this question, and nearly all did it reasonably well. The failure of most of the others was ... that they had not read the question, and did not take into consideration that the bookstock referred to was an "initial" one.

*Question 9* was not really well done. Nearly half of the candidates who attempted it, failed to pass in it. It is obvious that not enough attention is given to the question of library planning, furniture and equipment, in preparing for this paper.

#### *R4. (C). University and College Libraries*

The standard of papers was higher than over the previous four years, the proportion of passes to failures being two to one. Most answers were relevant to the requirements of the questions, a greater ability was displayed in handling questions and expression was also improved.

The questions most adequately handled were those concerning routines, particularly *Questions 2, 3 and 5.* Where the question required an understanding of policy and the principles of library administration the dif-

ference in the quality of the answers was more apparent. This was most marked in *Question 1*, where only two of eight candidates attempting this question gave it satisfactory treatment. Most candidates did not go beyond consideration of provision of finance. Points missed were status of library staff, representation on governing bodies and co-operation of the teaching staff.

*Question 7*, pertaining to a subject which has appeared regularly on this paper was inadequately handled by half of those who attempted it. Most candidates were satisfied with a full treatment of the decentralisation of technical processes and omitted to discuss matters such as staffing, loan and reference services.

#### *R5. Provision, Administration, Processes and Services of Special Libraries and Information Services*

Examiners were disappointed in the standard of answers as only 50 per cent. of candidates passed. ... Many candidates wrote in terms of their own libraries and neglected wider implications of the questions. ... In Section II many candidates failed to relate their answers to the whole subject field in which they had elected to be examined. The failure of some candidates to make service to readers the first consideration in administering their libraries was disturbing.

*Question 1.* Many candidates assumed that the only work that can be done without library training is clerical work, and failed to mention the place of the subject specialist, whether as information officer or abstractor. The difficulties of demarcation of duties of librarian and information officer, library assistant and clerical assistant or typist were not adequately treated ...

*Question 2.* Of the five candidates who answered this, none reached a pass standard. Whilst most discussed the type of catalogue and classification in relation to readers' use, and ... ways in which knowledge of how to use the catalogue and classification might be given to readers, hardly any discussed the problem in relation to different types of special library, as they

were specifically asked. . . . Most mentioned the advantage to the librarian of informed readers but did not stress the value to the users of this knowledge.

*Question 3.* All candidates knew something about obtaining periodical articles available in Australia, although marks were lost for omitting full and correct titles of well-known union catalogues, but fewer knew how to trace them through union catalogues of the holdings of overseas libraries and how to obtain them . . .

*Question 4.* This . . . should have presented few difficulties to candidates, all of whom, with one exception, attempted it. However . . . far too few presented their material convincingly and logically and . . . the examiners . . . could not overlook illogical conclusions and statements unsupported by argument. Many methods suggested . . . were theoretical and little attempt was made to evaluate their effectiveness . . .

*Question 5.* . . . Many answers were far too domestic in emphasis and there was widespread failure to distinguish between general principles involved . . . and specific examples of their application . . .

*Question 6.* Very few candidates discussed whether it was in fact desirable to reduce circulation, although most seemed more concerned with reduction . . . rather than with speeding it up. Most concentrated on two or three points to the exclusion of others which are quite important, such as photocopies and indexing of articles on request, and purchase of multiple copies of journals . . . some seemed to think it was the librarian's rather than the readers' convenience which should be considered.

*Question 7.* . . . Many candidates showed lack of judgement in their choice of inquiries and by selecting subjects marginal to the field found themselves in difficulties . . .

*Question 8.* Candidates had a reasonable knowledge of sources of book reviews and lists of new books and answered this fairly well . . . but marks were lost through failure to evaluate the sources . . .

*Question 9.* Most candidates confined their discussion . . . to a few general remarks and then proceeded to a general description of the abstracts and indexes best known to them. . . . There were many inaccurate descriptions . . . and many notable omissions. Few candidates showed more than . . . superficial knowledge of the major services and many failed to refer to the whole field in which they were being examined.

#### *R5. (I). Australiana*

The paper is one, in a final examination for a professional qualification; its subject is an option within an option; it is the literature, in the widest sense of the candidate's own country. Only one candidate out of six passed, and then only with the knowledge of Australiana that might reasonably be expected in any general reference librarian. There has not been a worse year in this paper for at least five years, and the standard has not been raised.

Every candidate attempted the second alternative in *Question 1*, and from the extent and accuracy of their knowledge, the presumption is borne out that they knew very little indeed about the questions they did not attempt.

Only one candidate attempted *Question 2*, and apparently did not know that the Mitchell Library has published indexes to Australian periodicals. . . . *Question 3* on the whole was the best answered question.

Five candidates attempted *Question 4*, but none rose much above the level of Preliminary candidates describing prescribed ready reference books. Three mentioned Mowle, without showing much sign of appreciation of the difference between genealogy and biography.

Three attempted *Question 5*, and showed little knowledge of either the legislation, or of the available checklists of publications subject to library deposit.

All attempted *Question 7*, and only two got more than half marks for it. When candidates offer spring rollers as an alternative method of library map filing, it is obvious that they have little idea of the map problem in libraries specialising in Australian history and geography.

All attempted *Question 8*. All but one too readily assumed at least State centralisation, that students were and would be in the capital cities and that local libraries could not or would not look after local records.

Four attempted *Question 9*. None showed evidence of familiarity with the catalogues of English second hand dealers specialising in Australiana, or with book auctions apart from general auctions and the catalogues of book auction firms in London. Only one showed much realisation that Australiana in this question included private papers as well as published books, and that private persons are directly or indirectly the major sources of private papers.

#### *R6. History and Purposes of Libraries and Related Services*

Whilst many candidates appeared to have some knowledge of the subject, the majority wrote what they knew about it without much reference to what was required of them and showed a lack of precision even in what they did write. . . . They showed a naïveté and immaturity which suggested that they lack both the experience and educational background which an examination at this level must presuppose.

*Question 1* . . . Answers were mostly a simple chronicle, often going little beyond a single development, with no explanation of causes or of why the developments described might be considered outstanding.

*Question 2* . . . Most candidates attempted this . . . and had a wealth of material to draw upon. Few discussed the national character of libraries in the countries named other than the British Museum, the Library of Congress and the Commonwealth National Library. Some extravagant claims and quite inaccurate statements were made . . . and little account was taken of national library services for science and technology.

*Question 3*. A large proportion of candidates failed to "examine critically" but gave a factual description mainly of the L.A. and the A.L.A. as if there were no other associations. This was often supplemented by a list of their publications, without comment . . .

*Question 4*. Few attempted to define "information services" and . . . the term was commonly taken as being synonymous with "research services". Answers were mainly a description of such services as they exist in Australia, mostly in State libraries. . . . Candidates generally did not do what the question required of them.

*Question 5*. Answers to this were notable for the number of unsupported generalisations made. The question was on the whole fairly well answered . . . although some candidates saw no difference between cataloguers and bibliographers, and others went into great detail on the methods of training cataloguers or wrote an essay on graduates as librarians . . .

*Question 6*. This was attempted by a big majority of candidates most of whom signally failed to say how they would make a survey. Many had some knowledge of basic needs and procedures but went off into long discussions on side issues. . . . The importance of traffic and transport was often overlooked by those who made a real attempt at the question.

*Question 7*. Most candidates were obviously ill-informed. . . . Few made "critical reference" to two directories or even to one, but some compromised by giving descriptive accounts and omitting any reference to the last part of the question . . .

*Question 8*. Many candidates tended to describe the present position and suggest how it might be improved . . . without explaining why that was the position. Historical reasons were not well understood or stated.

*Question 9*. The general tendency to describe rather than to discuss was very marked. . . . Many candidates did not seem to be aware that there might be a real problem to be considered, much less have any informed ideas about its solution, and they confined their answers to an account of the function of a special library without specific reference to the question.

#### *R7. Production, Acquisition and Indexing of Materials for Research*

In general, candidates showed lack of knowledge and lack of thought about what

knowledge they had. . . . The majority seemed to have very narrow horizons and were obviously thinking in purely local terms: for example, few showed much conception beyond very small special libraries, although even in Australia some special libraries are fairly large. . . . The outstanding weakness was a failure to answer the questions asked.

*Question 1.* There was a strong tendency in this to state the provisions of copyright law without discussing their effect. . . . Many, however, wrote at length on photographic copying or on method of publication and their effect on the dissemination of information. . . . "Research" was seldom considered to be anything but research in the physical sciences.

*Question 2.* Most candidates were able to describe a development in near print production, though not necessarily a post-war one. Answers were mostly in general terms. . . . A majority had some appreciation of the special problems of research material involving relatively short runs with high costs of setting, but several wrote a "standard" answer about microcards.

*Question 3.* This was attempted by a big majority, generally inadequately. While most took it for granted that copying should be a department of library work, they frequently considered it only in relation to special libraries. Few went beyond a simple account of photographic work in libraries with a description of methods rather than a discussion of the provision of copies. . . .

*Question 4.* Few attempted this question and only one answered it well. Some did not know what is meant by general classification in this context. Others attacked or defended one or other of the well-known general classifications without much reference to its use in special collections, while others again discussed the arrangement of material or even the merits of the dictionary catalogue. . . .

*Question 5.* Most candidates had some general knowledge of present arrangements for international exchange but not enough to be able to offer intelligent suggestions about improving them. Many restricted their answer to exchange of government

publications or duplicates. . . . Some described in detail procedures adopted by a single authority. . . .

*Question 6.* This was on the organisation of bibliographical services, not on existing bibliographies to which many candidates devoted their time. Whilst most candidates knew something about the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services many wrote almost incoherently about it or about UNESCO's activities. . . .

*Question 7.* Answers to this amounted more to a general description of Bliss's notation and a statement of the claims made about its advantages rather than . . . to a discussion of the principles upon which the classification is based. Most candidates had some acquaintance with the subject, but there was a common tendency to compare the notation . . . with that of the Decimal Classification, and ignore the question.

*Question 8.* Nearly all candidates attempted this question and nearly all had a working knowledge of microfilm and its alternatives and of newspaper storage problems. But discussion rarely led to an evaluation of the alternatives . . . and few showed understanding of the significance of microcards as an "edition process". Some . . . wrote an essay on microfilm generally, or on the need for preserving newspapers. . . .

*Question 9.* Most candidates who attempted this were able to state some of the main differences between the two codes and some were able to give a brief historical account of them. However, very few were able to examine them critically or to indicate merits and demerits. . . .

#### *R8. Production, Publication, History and Care of Books*

Though the highest standard reached was somewhat below that of the last two or three years, the general level was considerably higher. There was much less reliance on the pre-fabricated answer, and most candidates showed some ability to . . . apply their own knowledge to the question before them. . . . The chief causes of failure were poor and confused statement, bad slips in one or two questions, or pure ignorance,

but in every case these were accompanied by some quite good answers . . .

In the following comments the number in brackets indicates the number of candidates (out of 17) who attempted each question.

*Question 1.* (11) Most candidates kept pretty well to the beaten track in their choice of examples, though a few showed originality. . . . The Book of Kells was almost the only MS referred to. . . . Some candidates kept too closely to the beginnings of printing . . . the better candidates usually chose their examples to represent different periods.

*Question 2.* (16) Most candidates had a fair factual knowledge of the processes, but too many answers were confused in expression, and nearly all were rather superficial. . . . Even one of the better candidates thought that hand composition was used "for pulling proofs", while another confused lino-type with lino-cut.

*Question 3.* (9) All candidates attempting this question showed a reasonable knowledge of the historical development or the modern processes of colour reproductions, but few of both.

*Question 4.* (5) This question was perhaps a little specialised . . . and was avoided by most candidates. Those who did attempt it ranged from good to irrelevant . . .

*Question 5.* (11) This was in general fairly well done, though not all distinguished between full bibliographical and catalogue description and the utility of the component parts of the description was not always adequately discussed.

*Question 6.* (9) This question produced an interesting and spirited discussion on both sides, though no candidates seemed aware of the recent attempt to establish a regular auction in Sydney, and very few referred to the various post-war sales which have occurred.

*Question 7.* (10) The answers to this question generally showed evidence of some first hand observation and thought.

*Question 8.* (15) Here again the better candidates suggested actual experience in the use of the books, though others

described the books rather than indicating their usefulness.

*Question 9.* (14) This was intended to be an "essay" question in which the candidate would have to make his own synthesis and draw some conclusions of his own. The results were on the whole disappointing.

#### *R9. Archives with Special Reference to Australia*

. . . There is a tendency to give prepared answers to what is imagined are standard questions.

Most candidates showed that they had read Dr. Schellenberg's book "Modern Archives" and benefited by it, but several have treated it as a substitute for other sources rather than as an addition, with the result that they became confused over differences in terminology.

Future candidates are strongly advised to visit an archives repository and familiarise themselves with the nature of archival documents, files, forms, registers, etc., rather than to rely entirely on descriptive texts . . .

*Question 1.* This was poorly done. Most candidates dealt fairly with the changes in business methods and emphasised the increase in bulk which has resulted, but few noted the deterioration of physical quality on the one hand and the diversification of types on the other.

*Question 2.* No candidate was able to indicate satisfactorily the importance of registration in the creation of archives. The main current methods of registration in departments were fairly well described though no candidates distinguished adequately between "correspondence" registration and "file registration". Instead a number gave gratuitously an account of 19th Century registration methods.

*Question 3 . . .* The answers to this and *Question 5* prompted the comment that candidates should visit an archives repository. . . . Even candidates who read the text books carefully have little real understanding of the type of work involved in arranging archives, because they cannot visualise the materials and the component series.



*Question 4.* Candidates were aware of the problems created by bulk but not of the problems created by present day administrative and record keeping methods. Some detailed the methods used and did not comment on the efficacy of these methods; others commented on aspects of the methods used without giving a full picture of any scheme.

*Question 6.* Some candidates did not know what classification of archives was, confusing it with rearrangement of some library classification by breaking up series.

*Questions 7, 8 and 9 . . .* On the whole these were the best answers. There was evidence of some reading and thought.

#### *R10. Library Work with Children*

The standard of candidates attempting this paper showed a consistent level for each individual. . . . Many papers were marred by careless reading or faulty interpretation of the question . . .

*Question 1.* There were few adequate answers to this question. Candidates failed to relate the history of children's books to a background of social history.

*Question 2.* On the whole this was well done. In the evaluation of animal stories, the candidates who were most successful separated the various types of stories—real life stories of animals, fantasy, and stories of animals with human outlook. In the section on historical fiction answers were comprehensive and showed good judgement. Few candidates attempted the question on hobby books, and those who did seemed to have little practical knowledge of the books available and their comparative value.

*Question 3.* Candidates in many cases failed to read the question intelligently, giving lists of books suitable for various age groups, but making little reference to the factors which influence children in their choice of books.

*Question 4 . . .* Many candidates showed insufficient knowledge of the subject.

*Question 5.* This was quite well done. Candidates knew the book guides, but sometimes failed to appreciate the different values of each.

*Question 6.* Many candidates ignored the fact that they were making only a preliminary survey, prior to the establishment of a children's library.

*Question 7.* This question was answered adequately, though some candidates failed to realise all the purposes of story telling.

*Question 8.* Some candidates think of rules and regulations as prohibitions only, instead of a carefully planned system by which the library will operate to the greatest advantage of all . . .

*Question 9.* Some candidates did not choose a balanced selection of ready reference books. Most failed to assess the usefulness of books selected.

*Question 10 . . .* Some candidates showed little knowledge of the capabilities of different age groups, and some of the talks were not suited to the age specified.

*Question 11.* All candidates in Section III chose this question and answered it adequately.

*Question 12.* On the whole the selection of periodicals by the candidates was satisfactory, but the organisation and use of those chosen was not fully dealt with.

*Question 13.* Some candidates failed to make a practical approach to this question, giving vague generalising instead of definite plans for co-operation.

## NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1957

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# Branches and Sections

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The annual meeting of the New South Wales Branch was held at the Public Library of New South Wales on 1st March 1957 and was well attended.

The Outgoing President, Mr. C. E. Smith, welcomed to the meeting the President of the Association, Mr. J. Metcalfe, the Hon. General Treasurer, Mr. G. D. Richardson, and the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. R. McGreal.

The names of the newly elected Council for 1957 were announced and Miss F. M. T. Thomas, the incoming President, gave an address, in which she outlined the Council's plans for the year.

Miss Thomas laid great emphasis on the need to put our own house in order this year, and for greater publicity. She also touched on the financial problems facing the Branch and the method of voting for Branch Councillors both of which questions will be under consideration by the Council this year.

Miss Thomas stressed particularly that we must strive for greater co-ordination of Branch and Section Divisions and try to keep alive the feeling that we are all members of the one profession and the one association.

## NEW SOUTH WALES CENTRAL COAST BRANCH

The work of the Branch during 1956 did much to consolidate its position. Attendances at meetings have been most satisfactory and although no accurate records of members were held until late in the year, it is considered that there has been a considerable increase in the effective membership.

The work on the compilation of the Union catalogue of books held in the area and the Union list of serials in the area continues, and they are proving of great value.

The election of a Branch Observer to the General Council is noteworthy in the history of this young Branch. It is con-

sidered that this will be of considerable value to the Branch and it is hoped that General Council will feel that regional branch representation is a worthwhile provision. The Branch Observer for 1957 is Mr. L. Miller of Newcastle Public Library.

The meetings held in 1956 were:

February: Annual General Meeting.

April (at the Maitland City Library): Miss M. Cribb, City Librarian, Maitland, gave an address on "Remedial Reading for Librarians".

June: Dr. H. K. Worner, Director of Research, B.H.P. Research Laboratories, gave an address on "Research Work and Libraries".

August: Miss W. Radford, Reference Librarian, Public Library of New South Wales, gave an address on "American Library Schools".

October: Mr. R. Butler, Library Board of New South Wales, gave an address on "Modern Library Architecture".

December: Christmas Party.

The addresses were of a very high standard, and were much appreciated.

Our Committee for Work with Children was very active during 1956.

On the 31st May, a symposium on teen-age reading took place. Miss M. D. Roberts, Headmistress, Newcastle Church of England Girls' Grammar School, spoke on "Reading for Teen-age Girls", Mr. R. Ducrou, Teacher-Librarian, Maitland Boys' High School, on "Reading for Teen-age Boys" and Mr. L. Miller on "The Role of the Public Library in the Education of the Teen-age Child".

Miss Giffin, Children's Librarian, Newcastle Public Library, spoke on "Activity Methods in Introducing Children to Good Books" at Maitland on the 8th August, Newcastle on the 9th August, and Cessnock on the 10th August.

The Branch Council for 1957 is:

President: Professor J. J. Auchmuty.

Honorary Secretary: Mr. L. Miller.

Honorary Treasurer: Mr. J. B. Allison.  
Councillors: Mr. E. Flowers, Mrs. P. Flowers, Miss H. Giffin, Mrs. M. Moran, Mrs. A. Purser.

The Committee for Work with Children for 1957 is:

Miss H. Giffin (Convener), Miss M. Cribb, Mrs. W. Folkard, Miss A. Powrie, Mrs. A. Purser.

### **VICTORIA**

The Branch Council invited applications for the 1957 evening course, to prepare candidates for the Preliminary Examination. A class of 35 was chosen from about 70 who applied, and classes are now meeting. The Public Library of Victoria is conducting classes for the 18 candidates from its own staff.

The Library School has enrolled 35 students for the Short Course.

Mr. E. L. Frazer, a former President of the Branch and one of the founders of the Association has retired from his position as State Parliamentary Librarian. Accompanied by Mrs. Frazer, he left in the middle of February for a seven months' trip abroad.

Mr. F. Perry, a former Secretary of the Branch, is continuing his work in Indonesia as a Colombo Plan appointee. He is giving instruction in library education practice, and is in charge of developing a bibliographical centre. Mr. Perry expects to be in Djakarta until the end of 1957.

Work has begun on the new library for the University of Melbourne. Buildings on the site have been demolished, and excavation work is in progress. It is estimated that the building will be completed by September, 1958.

### **QUEENSLAND**

The year's programme was given a good start at the first general meeting. This was held at the Stones Corner Municipal Library on 27th February. A high tea was served to some fifty members and their friends at 6 p.m., and the hard work that was done in the kitchen was much appreciated. Tea was made the occasion of that

exchange of views that is so important a part of the Branch's meetings. Some fine passes in the Registration examinations had been received earlier in the day, and the successful candidates were congratulated by the members.

Soon after seven, the meeting was assembled in the children's library to hear Mr. H. M. Green, who had come from Warwick to address us. Mr. Green gave us 'Some Reminiscences of a University Librarian', in the course of which we found that the problems facing librarians remain much the same in different times and places. The Fisher Library during Mr. Green's administration was indeed a lively place, as every expanding library is. The lecturer's keen advocacy of the place of women in library work must have been gratifying to the great majority of his audience.

Members were unanimous in their approval of this type of meeting, beginning with a meal early in the evening, and finishing in good time. The pattern will be followed in several meetings later this year.

The Branch is glad to welcome back Miss W. R. Richardson who has returned from abroad to her position at the Parliamentary Library.

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Courses for the Preliminary Examination, and for the Registration Examination in Cataloguing and Classification, have now commenced under the aegis of the Education Department. Twenty-one students have enrolled for the Preliminary and nineteen for the Registration course.

The Annual Election of Branch officers and Council was held in November. The officers for 1957 remain unchanged from those of 1956, while the Council now consists of—

Professor F. Alexander, Mr. F. A. Sharr, Miss M. White, Mrs. M. C. Williams, Miss D. Wood.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The first meeting of this Branch for 1957 was held on 20th February. Mr. D. A. Dunstan, Manager of the Griffin Press, Adelaide, gave a talk on "Book Production

in Australia". This was the first of two meetings on "Books in Australia". At the March meeting, Miss Ethel Payne, Manageress of the W.E.A. Bookroom, will speak on the "Australian Book Trade".

The Branch offers congratulations to those of its members who were successful in the recent Registration Examinations. Especially does it congratulate Miss J. Smith (R6, merit), Mr. G. Fischer (R8, merit) and Mr. D. Hall (R10, merit). Mr. Hall, a teacher from Northfield Primary School, has contributed the following articles in recent issues of education magazines:

"Libraries for our Schools", The S.A. School Post. February 1957.

"Is YOURS a library?", S.A. Teachers' Journal. February 1957.

"Education and the Librarian", The Education Gazette. February 15, 1957.

### **The South Australian Library Scene**

The Public Library of South Australia is to extend its services with the opening of a Youth Lending Service.

It is hoped to open this Service in May. This new department which will cater for the reading needs of the 13-18 years age group, has been introduced in an attempt to hold the reading interests of young people from the time they cease to be active users of the Children's Library and become readers in the adult lending service.

Nearly 90% of Children's Library borrowers are under 13 years, but statistics have shown that the library was losing 700 children each year as they reached their early teens.

The new department will be housed in the front section of what is now the Newspaper Reading Room in the Board's Institute Building, facing North Terrace. The initial book-stock will be built from the senior section of the Children's Library, selected books from the Adelaide Lending Service, plus new books which will be bought.

The Librarian-in-Charge will be Mr. G. P. Selth, B.A.

Miss Jean Murray has returned to New Zealand after a year on exchange spent in the Public Library.

The capacity of the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, Reading Room has been increased with the addition of shelving to house an extra 10,000 volumes.

Miss Marjorie Rooney of the Barr Smith Library staff who has been overseas for the past twelve months, will return to Adelaide in late March.

## **TASMANIA**

### **Branch Activities**

The Annual Meeting of this Branch was held in December, 1956. The outgoing President (Miss M. Griffiths) presented the annual report and welcomed the new Branch Council, which is composed as follows:

President: D. H. Borchardt, M.A.

Vice-President: L. J. Dunn, B.Com.

Secretary: Miss M. Laskey.

Treasurer: T. Pickering.

Rep. Councillors: A. E. Browning, Miss M. Ramsay, M.A.

Branch Councillors: Miss D. Belcher, B.Com., Miss C. Paltridge.

Editor, Library Opinion: P. H. Saunders, B.A.

Past President: Miss M. Griffiths.

The first meeting of the Branch in 1957 was designed to assist students for the Preliminary Examination. The film "The Story of Printing" was shown and Mr. Saunders arranged for a display of old books from the Library of Christ College.

At the March meeting the Branch discussed the relations between Branches and Sections of the L.A.A.; after prolonged arguments the Branch agreed unanimously to send a recommendation to the General Council on the subject of financial provisions for Sections. The film of the State Library of Tasmania, "For all who read", was shown at the end of the evening. It is a pleasantly produced coloured film, showing the activities of the State Library and the beauty of its employees (female). (A more photogenic staff will be hard to find!)

### **Library Activities**

The Glenorchy Municipality has opened a new Branch Library in the State housing

area of Goodwood. The Municipality operates its libraries under an agreement with the State Library Board and in consequence the Goodwood Branch Library will be managed by the State Library. The opening ceremony was performed by Councillor Percey. The State Library Board was represented by the Deputy Chairman, Mr. C. R. Baker, C.B.E., and the Acting State Librarian, Mr. A. E. Browning, F.L.A. Mr. L. J. Dunn attended on behalf of the Library Association.

D.H.B.

## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION**

### **New South Wales Division**

Two interesting and beneficial meetings were held during the latter part of 1956.

Miss Mavis Gulliford, the Chief Librarian of the Red Cross, gave a talk on the organization and activities of Red Cross libraries. Design of hospital book trolleys, book repairs, use of voluntary aid, and bibliotherapy were breezily discussed. As Wollongong Public Library had recently commenced a service to local hospitals, the inter-change of ideas was not at all one-sided.

On 2nd November, Mr. Pearson, the A.B.C. Record Librarian, conducted a party of librarians over both the Federal and State record libraries. The tasks of selecting long-play and standards, indexing and programming were explained. Although one or two members had 'dabbled' in audio-visual work, the majority were delightfully at sea in this type of library. Mr. Pearson interspersed his talk with numerous amusing anecdotes of the record librarian. An invitation has been extended to the Division to inspect the new A.B.C. studios early this year.

The Annual Meeting was held on 20th February. Mr. D. V. Ryan, equalling the immortal's fame, was elected as President for a third successive term. A varied programme, including a week-end seminar at a holiday camp, a meeting to discuss the place of fiction in the public library, and two joint sessions with the Branch and the Section for work with children and young people, was adopted for this year. All members, past and present, are urged to be present.

### **Victorian Division**

The last meeting took the form of an excursion to the Public Library of Victoria as the guests of the Trustees for their Centenary Year celebrations. Mr. McCallum, Mr. Feeley and three members of the Public Library staff conducted the 43 visitors over the various departments of the Library, explaining their functions and answering the many questions put to them.

## **UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SECTION**

### **General Conference, Adelaide, August, 1957**

The programme of the Section has not yet been completed. The present intention is to hold one session only during which two papers will be presented and discussed. Mr. D. H. Borchardt, Librarian of the University Library of Tasmania, will speak on "The university librarian and his client". The Section is also hoping for some joint sessions with the Special Libraries' Section and with the Archives' Section.

### **South Australian Division**

On 15th August, 1956, a meeting of interested members was held and it was decided to seek approval for the formation of a Division of the Section in South Australia. That approval was granted in October.

The following officers were elected:

President-Convener, Mr. W. A. Cowan.  
Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Miss K. L. Andersen.

Committee members, Miss M. W. Sorrell, Miss M. Burns, Miss B. Byrne (Section Representative on the S.A. Branch Committee).

### **Registration Examination, 1957**

The Registration Examination, 1957, will be held from the 25th November to 6th December.

There will as usual be one paper a day, the papers being taken in the order in which they are listed in the syllabus. In Papers R4, R5 and R10, where there are mutually exclusive alternatives, the alternatives in each case will be taken on the same day, at the same time.

## TWO ITEMS OF INTEREST

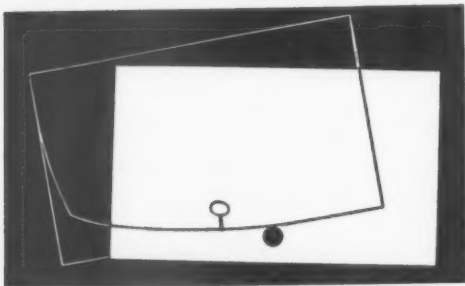
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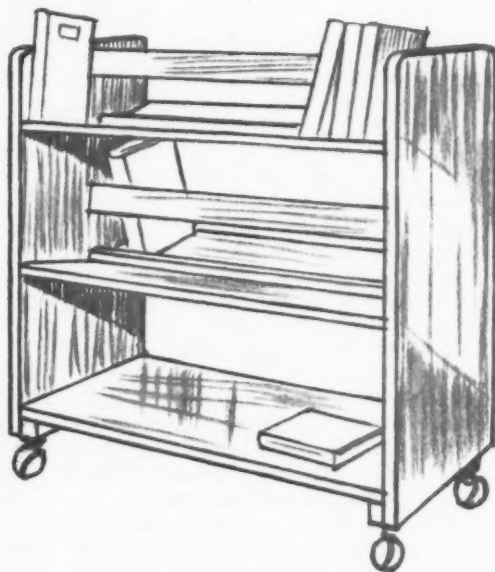
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